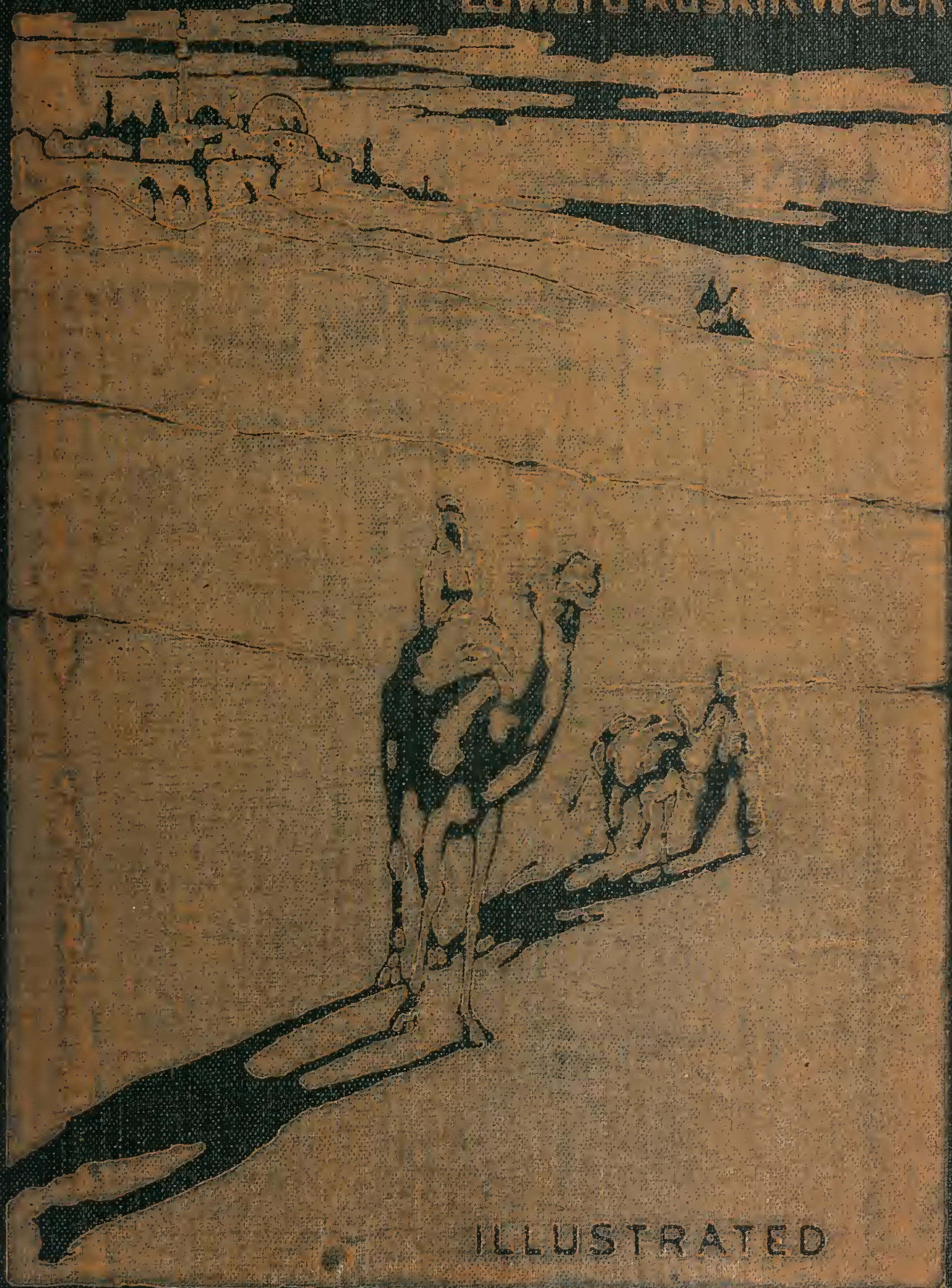


# PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Edward Ruskin Welch



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# A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

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*The Pilgrim*



# A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

<sup>[by]</sup>  
EDWARD RUSKIN WELCH  
"

*Asheville, N. C.*

ASHEVILLE ADVOCATE



*[1922]*

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## DEDICATION

To that noble band of parishioners and friends  
Whose great generosity made possible this pilgrimage;  
To all my fellow pilgrims whom I shall ever  
Hold in fond regard;  
To her who is my comrade and inspiration  
To make every day a pilgrimage to some Holy Land;  
To a Christian layman whose confidence and  
Esteem is precious;  
To a little girl who loves me;  
To all these and many others this volume is  
Affectionately dedicated.

#### **AUTHOR'S NOTE.**

We felicitate ourselves most generously on being able to launch this volume with the prestige of Dr. W. A. Shelton's fine introduction. The honor only exceeds the personal pleasure. With him the writer has enjoyed a long and most congenial friendship. We feel that no man is better qualified for speaking on the subject of Palestine. He has but recently spent a year in the Near East as a member of the Chicago University Archaeological Expedition. The public awaits with eagerness the appearance of a promised volume from his graphic and learned pen.

## INTRODUCTION.

The subject of this volume, "A Palestine Pilgrimage," is ever of compelling interest to all who study the history of religion or interest themselves in those things which have to do with the development of civilization. One might be neither Christian nor Jew nor yet a Moslem, all of which have a peculiar interest in the Land and each of which holds it sacred, but yet if he have any concern with history or human progress he would still be interested in the cradle of the great issues and great movements which have tremendously influenced the world's ongoing. To the three great faiths of the world today Palestine remains the place of most vital interest and will continue to do so to the end of time. Though a relatively small country, geographically and politically, it has stood for five thousand years as "The Bridge of the Nations," the Pathway of the Ancient Civilizations, and the School Room in which God prepared His people for their great mission in the world and in which, under His guidance, the foundations of all law and literature, worth while, in the world was laid.

Humanity will never lose interest in those rugged ways over which the Patriarchs walked with God and the Prophets traveled up and down denouncing the sins of kings and championing the cause of the poor, and over which walked the feet of Him who "taught as one having authority," and "spake as never man spake;" the place where the infant church struggled until it conquered and the kingdom of Christ spread out to the uttermost parts of the earth.

Many books have been written upon the subject, but they are ever new and from the pen of the many we get a better vision of those places we long to see. Peculiar interest attaches to the Land just now for the reason that it is becoming again the political catspaw that it was for the first four milleniums of human history, and also because, for the first time in five thousand years, there appears evidences of change, and when in this changeless land, relentless change sets in, the old things as they have always been, will very quickly pass away and the tourist of the future will be unable to see them as they were in those days of deepest human interest.

The author of this volume has long been my friend and knowing him as I do, I believe that he is peculiarly fitted for the task of producing a worthwhile book. Few men are better qualified to see the Land of the Book than he. Possessed of a soul so sensitive to the things of ethical and spiritual life, quickened by the dynamic of an unbounded enthusiasm, he is able to find and analyse that which the average traveler would entirely overlook. Gifted in the use of good English and untiring in industry, he is capable of making others see that which he has seen. "A Palestine Pilgrimage" should have a most hospitable reception in the field of travel literature.

W. A. SHELTON.

Emory University, Ga.  
September 12, 1922.



## FOREWORD.

For years we had dreamed of a possible pilgrimage to Palestine, but the proverbial wolf always stood too close to the door. In 1921, through the exceeding generosity of parishioners and friends, a door of opportunity opened wide and with unbounded gratitude we entered. Our party was most congenial and from start to finish the pilgrimage was one continual kaleidoscopic thrill after another. We toured Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, of course omitting very much of interest. The three countries are discussed under the title of Palestine because they have been interwoven in Israel's genesis and development, as indeed they have been in all the centuries of history. But their chief interest lies in that Jehovah here enacted the tragic history of the fittest available race for His purpose—that of concreting certain great religious ideals in a nation's life and climaxing the process in an atonement for all races and all peoples. Here was born the Christ of God.

We confess that Palestine had always been partly obscured in a haze of semi-mysticism, half earthly, half fairyland; its heroes, demigods, possessing some faults, to be sure, but too valiant and too good "for human nature's daily food." Now it is as real as the soil of our nativity; its Esdraelon battleground as real as Valley Forge and Bunker Hill, and Joshua and David as real as Washington and Pershing. Its battles were but the contests of peoples human as we are, restless under oppression and fighting at the behest of an inner urge for country, for God as they conceived Him, and for right as they saw it. Even the beautiful humanity of Jesus stands out in a living light of reality hitherto unperceived. We heard again the baby's low cry at Bethlehem, followed Him to Nazareth and traveled over Judean hills and Galilean pathways His feet had sanctified, wept with the Holy Mother beside the cross, and stood with the wondering eleven on Olivet's brow, and looked into the same skies His ascending form had entered.

The contour of the country, its manners and customs, its seasons, its harvests, its plants and animals, especially domestic; its streams, wells, lakes, hills and valleys, its tombs—all these survive unchanged and over them glimmers still the same Syrian sun that set for Jacob at Beeroth, that hung above Gibeon for Joshua's convenience, and that rose so often over the brow of Neby Sain as He, the skillful young Carpenter, entered His shop for the day's toil. All this makes real the Book and the Man of the

Book and places in one hand of the sincere student a trowel for erecting the walls of Truth's temple, and in the other a sword, two-edged, for fighting the battles of the Lord.

Now in reading or discussing an event we see it in its physical setting, including relative distances and local coloring. May we not indulge the hope that the kind reader will be able to receive in some measure similar benefit from the perusal of these vagrant chapters. They have been written with primary aim to serve the laity in giving some portion of intelligent background for the study of the Bible. Palestine is the Land of the Book and the Bible is the Book of the Land and each explains and complements the other.

“Go, little booke, God send thee good passage,  
And specially let this be thy prayere,  
Unto them all that thee will read or hear,  
Where thou are wrong, after their help to call  
Thee to correct, in any part or all.”

Chaucer's Bell Dame sans Mercie.

Land of the Sky  
Asheville, N. C.  
October, 1922.

E. R. W.

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## CHAPTER I.

Beirut—The Lebanons—Baalbek.



## CHAPTER I.

### Beirut—The Lebanons—Baalbek.

My introduction to the land of my pilgrimage was strikingly picturesque. At Beirut, Syria, our big liner being of too heavy draft to come close to the dock anchored some distance away. Hardly had she come to a standstill when there appeared swarming all around us a flotilla of small craft that seemed to rise out of the water. Never shall I forget that strange picture. Such a motley crowd! Swarthy cheeked men and boys dressed in flowing robes of many colors, some with gowns fastened at the waist by a loud sash, some with those Asiatic breeches whose posterior bagging to the knees would hold the week's washing for an average American family, some with European suits snowy white. All wore red tarbousches with black tassels. Such a Babel of voices! A multitude of hands waiving frantically, pushing, struggling, fighting, to get nearest to the gangway. The New York stock exchange is tame compared with this spectacle. Some were there to meet tourists whose coming was expected, some to greet returning loved ones and old friends—and of such were most of the passengers—,some to sell fruit, some to transport baggage. One especially handsome fellow standing erect in the prow of a pretty boat flying a red pennant attracted our attention. He was a broad shouldered, well dressed man above middle life with swarthy cheek and flashing black eye. He wore a blue serge European coat over a spotlessly white Asiatic skirt that reached to his ankles. With his red tarbousch he was truly red and white and blue. Listen. He is speaking perfectly good English. Above the yelling jargon he is calling for our party. Stepping from boat to boat we are soon seated with him while the expert Syrian oarsmen with measured stroke are pulling for the wharf. This man is George I. Jallouk of Jallouk Brothers, professional dragomen, living at Jerusalem. George, as we all affectionately called him, was a prince of good fellows, even tempered, kind, attentive, considerate, especially chivalrous and thoughtful of our feminine companions. He is a true Christian gentleman, Episcopal vestryman, and withal the best dragoman in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. Taking immediate charge of us we lacked for nothing. Every arrangement for transportation, entertainment, and personal convenience had been anticipated. He seemed to know everybody; they seemed to know him. His wish was law and to him all



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

doors were open. Fortunate indeed was this bunch of tenderfoots. He stayed close by us until the Cleopatra steamed out of Alexandria and our last view of the dock revealed dear old George waving fond adieus to his departing friends. Our hearts were sad for we might never see him again this side the New Jerusalem. May our heavenly Father bless our friend, with all his own, and may he be spared to pilot many other groups with as much efficiency and attention as that accorded to us.

Owing to George's influence with the custom officers our baggage was unmolested and soon we found ourselves in lovely rooms at the Grand Hotel de Orient, opening out toward the Mediterranean expanse. Soon dinner (lunch) was announced and what with whetted appetites and with appetizing fare we did full justice to the occasion. There is no better time nor place than this to state that at every place we tarried, save at Shechem, which was passable, the hotels were surprisingly good and the appointments all one could wish, though the food was too highly seasoned a la Franche. The fruit was abundant and delicious.

Beirut is the chief seaport of Syria, and is a city of two hundred thousand population. It is located on the south side of the beautiful St. George's bay on the western slope of the Lebanon mountains and has a lovely situation, especially from the harbor view. Here semi-European fashions prevail and there are few objects of special interest.

On a promontory on the western edge of the city is its most valuable asset. I refer to the great American College. It was opened in 1863 by Dr. Daniel Bliss, who remained till his eightieth year when he was succeeded by his son, Dr. Howard Bliss, who, with the loyal assistance of sympathetic friends in America, built up an institution in equipment and quality of work done that rivals many of our best American institutions. He but recently passed away. The lighthouse at the extreme end of the campus is emblematic for this Christian college is a beacon light over all the vast territory between the Ural mountains and Abyssinia. Its constant student body of one thousand or more is made up of all faiths, including Protestants, Greek and Roman Catholics, Jews, Druses, Bahias, and mostly Mohammedans. Forth from its walls has gone in all these years a steady stream of culture and intellectual breadth and sympathy that, similar to Robert College at Constantinople, has produced a type of leaders who have wonderfully leavened the thinking of



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

all this vast region and is its most promising hope for the future. We met its alumni everywhere and their faces would kindle with pride as they volunteered the information of their former connection with this loved institution.

The American mission has been operating in Syria for a century and there are today more than one hundred schools with several thousand students. Here at Beirut is a great publishing and Bible house that has been disseminating western Christian ideals for many years and its influence is potent. Do we not see in this an important factor in the plebiscite of 1918 that by an overwhelming majority asked that the Syrian mandate be assigned to America? That afternoon we visited these institutions and took in the city generally as time would permit, making the bazaars where we purchased needed toilet articles and our cork hats, for which we had frequent occasion to be thankful as we traversed the barren mountainsides and valleys with not a single cloud to offer its friendly shade. Save three winter months Jupiter Pluvius absents himself from Palestine. Immediately following this rainy season is the farming period, when vegetation is luxuriant and flowers carpet the earth with profusive variety and richness of color and shade seen nowhere else.

Early next morning we climbed into high powered French autos and struck out eastward over the Lebanons toward the ruins of ancient Baalbek. Thousands of feet we ascended over beautiful macadam roads built by a French company in 1860 as a toll road from Beirut to Damascus. The engineering was remarkable. The mountains are terraced and mulberry groves, olive orchards, and vineyards abound. Once these vast declivities were covered with splendid oaks, firs, and forests of cedars unequaled in all the world. Here Hiram, king of Tyre, cut the cedar timbers used in the building of Solomon's temple, which were conveyed in floats to Joppa and thence overland thirty miles to Jerusalem. From here came the choice ship timbers of the Egyptian and Phoenecian navies, as well as the interior furnishings of their lordly palaces. Now one looks in vain for these cedar forests. Only on Mount Baruk does there remain a grove of four hundred trees, called by the Maronite peasants "the Cedars of the Lord." One called "The Guardian" seems the patriarch of the four hundred. Its twisted and gnarled trunk, topped by an evergreen canopy, betokens that he weight of centuries is upon it and the fury of thousands of storms has howled among its branches, and yet it stands proudly erect, refusing to bow its kingly head though it stands

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

a lone sentinel over a vanishing race. Grand old monarch! May the decrepitude of age be long in finding you. May you, who doubtless heard the echoing ring of Hiram's axmen in the days long gone, be still standing there when the stories of our own achievements shall become the hoary legends of the past.

We are now halted at an elevation of 6,825 feet in the pass between Mounts Kenneseyeh on the north and Jebel el Baruk on the south. On either side the mountain is gashed into wild gorges and hollows. Behind us is Beirut, a white spot on a green background, and beyond is the blue Mediterranean sea. Before us is the beautiful valley of Coele (hollow) Syria, watered by the famed Litani (Leontes) and its tributary creeks. This valley is seventy-five miles long and averages ten miles broad. On yon side lie the Anti-Lebanons, beyond which is Damascus and the vast desert beyond and beyond. Soon we pass Zahleh, a Christian town of 16,000 people, with its vineyards and babbling brook, and twenty miles up to the northeast we hasten forward to our immediate destination, Baalbek, where we arrive at 1 p. m., hot, tired, hungry.

Baalbek is a town of 5,000 people on an elevated plain near the headwaters of the Orentes, which flows northward, and the Leontes, which flows southward. Through the town flows a most refreshing stream which, like the Abana, at Damascus, soon loses itself beyond the city. The finest orchards we found were here, chiefly apricots and large, juicy plums. In the large shaded gardens we saw groups of men seeding the golden apricots and rolling the pulp into large thin cakes which were dried in the sun, packed into bales, and marketed in large quantities for future use as jam, pies, or apricot juices. A diminutive water mill in this garden ground the community wheat. Before a simple stone hut was a Syrian wife baking loaves or thin speckled pancakes. Her oven was an oblong earthenware jar three feet deep and two feet in diameter sunken in the ground. In the bottom was a fire of wood coals which heated the smooth sides of this oven. The cakes were plastered against the walls and quickly baked, and though unseasoned, are not unpalatable if eaten hot. After eating a portion of a cake which was offered me, I left, smiling my thanks, the only way I knew to express myself, ignorant of the universal expectation of every oriental to receive backshish for any service rendered, however trivial, and for none. That evening who should appear at the hotel but this woman and describing my appearance, which was not difficult, being constructed on Gothic lines of





**The Biggest Stone Ever Quarried by Human Hands.**

“Here lies this Monarch of the Quarries, eloquent of ambitions un-  
attained, of enterprises uncompleted.”





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

architecture, demanded bakshish for the bread I ate that afternoon, worth perhaps in American coin one-fourth of a cent. Gallant George gave her a coin and sent her away happy. My fellow tourists never forgot this little episode, ever twisting it to suit the occasion until it finally assumed the proportions of a huge joke with whiskers. I mention it simply to show that bakshish is the alpha and omega of oriental travel. The babe is taught to lisp it before the word "Mama," and his dying groan is for bakshish. "Bakshish opens every door," said a guide to me in Cairo, and it is true. Tourists by their maudlin sympathy and indiscriminate gifts have pauperized the populace. However the horde of persistent beggars one reads about as pestering the tourist are not now in evidence, thanks to the new and rigid French and English regime, on the one hand assisting these paupers and on the other penalizing their professional and annoying begging. For actual service rendered one should always pay.

Baalbek, the Syrian "City of the Sun," is of remote and uncertain history. Situated on the high road of commerce between Tyre, Palmyra, and the farther east, it became a place of wealth and importance. The Greeks found it and called it Heliopolis, after the Heliopolis near Cairo, from which they imported its gods. The Romans under Antoninus Pius, A. D. 218-22, converted it into a gorgeous Pantheon with temples to Jupiter, Venus, Bacchus, and other gods and goddesses. The Temple of Jupiter was one of the wonders of the world. Constantine destroyed these false worships and in 390 A. D. the emperor Theodosias I transformed the temple into a great church, which in 748 was sacked by Moslem Arabs and turned into a fort. Thereafter it sank into neglect and decay. Yet it is majestic in its ruins. The first and most prominent object one sees is a lofty portico of the Temple of Jupiter, of six massive and beautiful columns. At a distance these do not appear so massive but on a nearer view are colossal. Including foundation and architrave they tower 200 feet toward the sky. Each column is made of three separate polished shafts joined together with invisible clasps of iron. Many of these columns are perfectly fluted, this being done after erection. The Doric, Tuscan, and Corinthian orders of decoration abound. We climbed a spiral staircase beside a massive door overhung by a broken arch, the keystone of which was half displaced. We crossed over this arch and up into a giant tower with big loopholes. The view from this spot is overwhelming. There are fifty acres of colossal ruins; titanic columns piled every way upon



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

each other; stones weighing a thousand tons covering vast courts; towers half standing; broken columns leaning against fragments of walls high against the sky; great courts hexagonal and rectangular; smaller circular temples erected to some minor god; votive tablets, empty niches, and dilapidated shrines; immense subterranean vaults hundreds of feet long; a city of ruined temples in an empire of vanished glory. What a tragic comment on the vanity of mere human endeavor and the pursuit of earthly glory. Gone are the monarchs at whose command these temples and walls arose. Faded into oblivion are their puny achievements. Buried are the tens of thousands of slaves on whose backs arose these lordly towers and walls. The demolition of war and the ravages of the inexorable centuries have covered the ground with this eloquent wilderness of debris.

“All things that are on earth shall wholly pass away,  
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye.  
The forms of men shall be as they had never been;  
The blasted groves shall lose their fresh and tender green;

\* \* \* \* \*

And realms shall be dissolved, and empires be no more;  
And they shall bow to death who ruled from shore to shore;  
And the great globe itself (so the holy writings tell),  
With the rolling firmament, where the starry armies dwell  
Shall melt with fervent heat—they shall all pass away,  
Except the love of God which shall live and last for aye.”  
(Bryant.)

Perhaps the object of chief interest to the tourists is the cycloped wall. Here twenty feet above ground are three big stones averaging 63 feet in length, 12 by 14, each estimated to weigh 1,200 tons, and are the largest stones ever used in human architecture. How they were transported a mile from the quarry and elevated twenty feet above ground can only be surmised by considering the vast numbers of laborers available and the known application of mechanical means for proportionate distribution of weight. It is supposed that a gigantic causeway gradually inclined upward and upon this the stones were slid. In turn the decoration was begun at the top and continued downward as the causeway was removed. One mile distant there lies in the quarry one stone more colossal than all the rest. It is 71 feet long, 14 by 17, and weighs 1,800 tons, estimated, and is the biggest stone ever quarried by human hands. It is not quite detached from its base. No one can opine its contemplated location or explain the manner of its transportation. Here lies this monarch of the quarries unmoved by the vicissitudes

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

of the revolving centuries, eloquent of ambitions unattained, of enterprises incompleated. No tourist can afford to visit Syria without Baalbek, and no Baalbek visitor will fail to pay his compliments to this prostrate king of human architecture.







**The City of Damascus, Mother of Cities, Gateway of the East, City of Minarets and Musical Muezzins, of Unflagging Interest and Unflagging Change and Charm.**



## CHAPTER II.

**Damascus.**





## CHAPTER II.

### Damascus.

Over the Antilebanons from Baalbek we journeyed with a crippled motor and an enforced wait of two hours at Reyak while our Syrian chauffeur got down and under. Here were trees and orchards and a fine transparent stream, a branch of the Litani. Thence we descended on a winding road through Zebadani where we first met the Barada (the Abana of II Kings 5:12), thence through a beautiful valley. We passed a recent battlefield where, owing to the well stationed guns of one of General Allenby's divisions, the mountain gorge was filled with dead Turkish soldiers. Twenty-three well kept graves in a little military cemetery indicated the number of English fatalities. Soon we passed through Dummar, the summer resort of rich Damascenes, and now we suddenly emerge into the open and gaze for the first time on the age old city of Damascus, mother of cities, gateway of the east, city of minarets and of musical muezzins, of unflagging interest and kaleidoscopic change and charm. Out from a sea of green rise numerous domes and minarets—upstanding sentinels of a cruel pagan faith and ultra fanatic zeal.

Damascus is called the "Mother of cities" because it has the oldest continuous existence of any city on earth. Jerusalem in the days of Melchizedek was perhaps older, yet there was a time from A. D. 70 to A. D. 130 when it was naught but a pile of forsaken ruins. Tradition says that Damascus was founded by Uz, the son of Canaan, the grandson of Noah whose descendants after the flood peopled the fertile and picturesque Lebanon and later the plains of Syria and became the supposed ancestors of the Syrian people. The first mention we have of the city is in Gen. 14 where it is stated that Eliezer, Abraham's steward, dwelt there, giving it an antiquity of at least 4,000 years. Heroditus says it is older than Abraham. After passing successively under the dominion of the Israelites, Persians, Greeks, and Romans, it fell at last in 1516 into the hands of the Turks where it remained till 1918.

It is called the "Gateway of the East" because the main highway of the ages from Mesopotamia, Persia, and the vast east, to Tyre, the Mediterranean coast cities, and to Egypt passed through Damascus. It is still an im-

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

portant caravan route, although the Bagdad railway, connected at Aleppo with Damascus and Beirut, handles much of this commerce. Yet many long and picturesque caravan trains slowly creep across the stretches of the desert route laden with the cashmeres, the carpets, and riches of the east. To say that we saw hundreds of caravans is not an extravagance.

It is called the "City of Minarets" because out of a population of 300,000, three fourths of them are Mohammedans. Hence the city is filled with mosques and towering minarets and from each minaret five times a day the muezzin chants his cry out over the city, "Allah Akbar, Allah akbar," etc., "To prayers, to prayers, O ye followers of Allah. There is but one God and Mohammed is his prophet." At once a truth and a lie. Within 100 feet of our room in the Damascus Palace hotel there was a mosque. At 5 A. M., the first call floated out over the city. From minaret to minaret the sound was caught up and in a trice the whole city was vibrant with the call from 300 minarets. Description of its impressiveness is impossible. These muezzins are trained from childhood and are often blind, since their elevation above the city could enable them to see too much of the home life. Their tenor voices are mellow and sonorous. It floats out like the sad wail of a lost soul. Indeed it is the wail of a lost multitude, numbering today two hundred and fifty millions, too blind to see the light and too fanatically arrogant to admit its lost estate. Mohammedanism presents the hardest problem for Christian missions to solve. Yet it will be solved. Here in Damascus in 1860 six thousand Christians were murdered and twenty thousand were exiled from their homes. But today one may not fear. The times are changing and French soldiers are everywhere in evidence. All the mosques are open for inspection provided you pull on big flapping overshoes and are liberally supplied with bakshish. We did not see here or elsewhere many worshippers. In 1914 Dr. Rowland, our conductor, was here and he is of the opinion that they have decreased more than fifty per cent during that time. The Great Mosque, or Omalyade, is the only one worth visiting. It is one of the four famous mosques of the Moslem world, the other three being the Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem, the Alabaster Mosque at Cairo, and the Mosque of St. Sophia at Constantinople. All but the last mentioned we visited. The Great Mosque is of uncertain history. At first it was a Christian church, then a heathen temple, and at last a Moslem Mosque. A noble



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

inscription on the south door dating from its earliest usage has remained unmolested. It is a quotation of Psalms 145:13: "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth forever." It has escaped the deletion of moslem fanaticism because it is carved in Greek and they could not interpret it. Some day it will disappear. But its sentiment is true and ominously prophetic of the final ascendancy of the cross over the crescent. Outwardly the building is unprepossessive but is inwardly elegant. The marble floors are covered with finest Persian rugs forty feet square worth \$50,000 each. These are donated by the Sultans and ruling Caliphs of the past and present. Each on coming into power is expected to make a princely donation to one or all of the leading mosques. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1893 but the walls still show mother-of-pearl inlaid work of marvelous beauty on a background of mahogany. The majestic dome with a million lines of mosaic tracery of vines and foliage beggars all description. On the north wall are glass mosaics as old as the tenth century. In the transept of a chapel is the reputed tomb of John the Baptist, whose head, said to have been found by the conqueror Khalid in the crypt of the old church, lies buried here. Above the gorgeous tomb hangs a golden crescent. However, there is no evidence whatever as to this claim. The surprising thing is that Moslems should thus revere a Christian Saint. But the oriental is deeply religious and reverential. Mohammed placed Jesus next to him in a line of great prophets and teachers. And the superstitious reverence for Mohammed and his celebrated feats enables them to give partial credence to the miraculous performances of Jesus. Hence with fanatical zeal they have preserved inviolate many of the sacred places of Palestine and have gone so far as to manufacture many others ascribed to lesser saints. Catholicism, Greek and Roman, has done likewise and to these two divergent faiths is due the paradoxical fostering and preservation of sacred shrines and relics, real and imaginary.

The beauty of Damascus is proverbial. It is a pearl with emerald setting, a wilderness of fragrant bloom and luscious fruitage where olive and pomegranate, orange and apricot, plum, fig, olive and walnut, commingle their shades of green. The city is the lordly gift of the Barada, as Egypt is the gift of the Nile. The Barada rises 23 miles to the north west of the city. It gushes out from the side of a limestone mountain and plunges to the desert below. At Damascus it divides into seven streams. Artificial aque-

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

ducts carry its waters to every garden and home in the city. Virtually all of its water is consumed and but a few miles due east the meager remnant loses itself in the sands of the near-by desert. How like the true Christian life in its abundant self-giving and self-losing.

We stood on a platform made in 1898 for the German Kaiser to stand upon to view the city. It is on the southwestern edge and partially up the side of the mountain. From here the city takes the shape of a spoon, the long handle protruding two miles to the southeast. The white buildings appearing among the groves of green remind one of an emerald scarf splashed with alabaster. Just behind and above us is Mohammed's landing place where he won the world's championship for broad and high jumping. It is recounted to you in all seriousness that he came to Kasum, 12 miles to the east of the city, and from the rocky hill there he saw Damascus for the first time. He remarked that it was not given to any man to behold but one Paradise and that he preferred the heavenly one. Closing his eyes he sprang into the air, leaped over the city and landed on the top of Jeb Kaysem, 1,000 feet high. That was some jump, worthy of a special edition of the Saturday Blade but as far as the limited knowledge of the writer goes that famous sheet has ignored this remarkable feat. One is reminded of an instance that occurred in west Texas. A cyclone had demolished a man's home and had blown him twenty miles in less time than it takes to tell it. Strange to say he was not killed. Next day his pastor found him and remarked: "Brother, I trust the good Lord was with you." The man replied: "Well, if he was he sure was going some." So was brother Mohammed.

But by far the most fascinating feature of Damascus is its versatile human life and its accompaniments. Here are native Syrians in abundance, of course, but also Nubians, Egyptians, Jews, Persians with bales of costly merchandise, swarthy bedouins with their camels, tourists with cork hats, French soldiers in uniform, men and women, old and young, children well dressed and tattered, all jostling along the narrow streets. Add to this human throng the many plucky little donkeys with burdens heavier than their own weight, camels wabbling along patiently, if not gracefully, with astonishingly large cargoes, sheep and goats, dogs and chickens. Consider also the endless variety of garments of all the colors of Joseph's coat, of all fashions and of none—shawls, coats, long and short, oriental and western,



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

heavy overcoats in tropical noon, trouseurs bagging down behind unspeakably grotesque, turbans, tarbousches, western straws, tourists hats; Moslem women in black with veiled faces, their black bewitching eyes peeking out from under the lifted corner of the veil as you pass, and wearing red slippers, tan hosiery, and ankle bracelets. Think of the babel of discordant sounds—the cucumber barker with his donkey, the camel driver shouting “Yallah, yallah,” the candy seller with his tray, the bread seller crying “Ya karim, ya karim”—“Gift of the bountiful one.” The water carrier artfully rattling his brass cups, crying out “Ishrub ya’ atshan, Ishrub ya’ atshan”—“Drink, O thirsty”; the old clothes auctioneer crying his sales, the postcard hawker and the antique waresman—all this mingled with the bleating of sheep and goats, the crowing of cocks, the growl of the camels, the bark of the dogs, the horn of the busses, the rattling of their wheels over the cobble stones, and above it all the muezzin’s call “to prayers, to prayers”—all this and much more gives but a faint moving picture of Damascus life.

One never tires of making the Bazarrhs where everything is sold from a jack-knife to a camel. All the stores handling a certain article are segregated. For instance, all the silk stores are in the silk bazarrh. There are bazarrhs for the sale of carpets, saddlery and harness, old clothes, silver and jewelry, tobacco, including pipes, footwear, and many others. The stores are mere stalls on the side of these narrow streets. The doors disappear, either pushed into the side or raised upward, leaving the whole front open. The goods are piled on the floor and on shelves. The merchant sits cross-legged on the floor indifferently smoking his tchibouk. The moment you pause to inspect an article he is all vivacity and politeness, and you will not escape without a purchase. Should you really wish to buy an article you are in for a barrel of fun. Be prepared for a price five times what he will finally accept. You feign indifference, shake your head, lift your hands in holy horror at such a price, and start away. He follows and drops the price. Back and forth you have it. He finally puts the article away in injured innocence. Be not discouraged. The article is yours. You may be allowed to get fifty feet away, but he will soon be tugging at your sleeve with the article in his hands. He has reconsidered and since you will be in the city several days and will doubtless call to see him several times and will influence others to do likewise, he will condescend to accommodate you



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

with this rare bargain, assuring you that many such deals will make of him a pauper. Don't worry as to that. He has made a large profit.

There are so many beautiful and elegant articles one would purchase; the most exquisite lace and embroidery, filigree silver work, brass and inlaid mosaics unexcelled in all the world, carpets by the acre, rugs worth a thousand dollars, bric-a-brac of all kinds,—but means are limited, as is also the amount of baggage, and the United States custom duties are prohibitive.

Our visit to the celebrated brass works was most enjoyable. Rare artists were tracing delicate lines of carving, or inlaying on finest wood and metal, mother-of-pearl and silver wire. Everything is made from a cigarette case to a bed room suite. Our pleasure was marred by the spectacle of 100 little orphans from a near-by Syrian orphanage who were laboring with great industry and expertness and lifting up on their little backs the vast fortune of this Syrian gentleman (?) who has become a millionaire. No wonder their little hands reached out to us and their little voices stammered "backshish, backshish." We were taken into this man's house. It was a palace that would fit into some of the descriptions of Arabian Nights.

The street called Straight, the most famous street in the orient, bisects the city, running due east and west for one mile. In the palmy days of Roman occupation this ancient Champs Elysees was a wide and elegant boulevard paved and bordered with parks and colonades behind which were the dwellings of the rich and prosperous. On this boulevard dwelt Judas, the friend of Saul of Tarsus, and the location of his residence on this street establishes his financial and social rating and is an incidental comment on the status of the cultured deciple of the renowned Gamaliel. Today the street is narrow and dark. It is covered over for some distance with American galvanized iron in semi-oval form with occasional openings for light and ventilation. An ancient Roman triple gate, called St. Paul's Gate, is the eastern terminus. Two of the three are closed. Inside and near this gate is the Christian Quarter, plain and unpretentious, while just outside and to the north of this gate is shown the house of Naaman the Captain of the hosts of Asyria, whose leprosy was immediately cured by obedience to the command of the prophet Elisha. This site is now a leper colony. South of this gate on the dilapidated wall is shown the house and window through

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

which Saul escaped from the wrath of the governor under King Aretas. Despite the flight of twenty centuries you are expected to believe that this is the identical house and window, even the iron crossbars that cover it. Saul must have been a pygmy indeed. These openings are not more than eight inches square at best. Across the road is a fine walled garden of English walnuts in which is shown the tomb of St. George of dragon slaying fame. He is said to have assisted in Saul's escape, perhaps holding the twine string on which the lunch basket containing this little man was fastened. St. George seems to have been buried also at Lydda, perhaps at other places. Requiescat in Pace. Inside the gate and on the east side of a short street to the north is the house of Ananias, whom the Lord sent to lead the future apostle into the light. Strange to relate, no one offered for sale any of the scales from Saul's eyes. The supply was presumably exhausted, *pro tem*. This house of Ananias is a small Catholic chapel some twenty feet under ground. Many great men have visited Damascus in its long and varied history, but none who have so mightily affected the stream of human thought and life as Saul of Tarsus. Many great events have transpired within its walls, but none so potent and significant to the unfolding centuries as the conversion of this brilliant and scholarly personality. For he, by his heroic life and prolific sacred writings, has typed the religious thought and life of the ages and will continue to do so in ever increasing measure until the kingdoms of this world shall become, as he predicted, the kingdoms of our God and his Christ. In that grand consummation you and I, dear reader, may have an humble portion if we will.







### A Typical Bedouin Family

“Before their black goat’s hair tent which can be struck and away in thirty minutes.”



### CHAPTER III.

**Hauran—Sea of Galilee.**





## CHAPTER III.

### Hauran—Sea of Galilee.

After several days in this oldest and strangest of cities, every moment of which was thrillingly fascinating, we boarded the French railway train at the Beramke station for the Sea of Galilee. The trains run tri-weekly. There are three classes of coaches. The first is fairly comfortable, the second is barely passable, the third is unthinkable. George had arranged first-class passage and a big basket of lunch with good water and at seven a. m. we slowly pulled out of Damascus. Nine hours later we detrained at our immediate destination. The proverbial "slow train through Arkansas" must yield the palm to this Hauran road. We stopped at every camel path and crossing, once to let a bunch of camels get off the track and once to accommodate a baby donkey. However, our company was congenial and jovial and the Hauran plains, ancient Bashan, were interesting. They resemble the plains of west Texas and are the grain producing areas of Syria. Once they were covered with forests of magnificent oaks and dotted with populous cities. Here reigned Og, king of Bashan, and here bellowed the "bulls of Bashan" of Ps. 26, the Scriptural type of unreined ambition and cruelty. This is the "Desert of Arabia" to which Saul resorted for three years. See Gal. 1. It was a land of beauty and of great productivity. The Rephaim or giants peopling this vast region terrified Israel constantly. High walls and barred gates surrounded the cities. Its conquest was begun by Moses at Edrei and completed by Jair many years later in the capture of Argob. Literally tens of thousands of camels graze these plains. The Bedouin camel herder pays the Hauran farmer for the privilege of grazing the wheat stubble which he formerly confiscated. At all the stations apparently the whole population met the train and we had ample opportunity to scrutinize them. The road runs near the desert and these were typical Arabs. They are usually smiling and in friendly humor but are capable of great treachery and cruelty. Above is shown the picture of a typical Bedouin family before their black goat's hair tent, which can be struck and away in thirty minutes. The father is reasonably prosperous and the mother would be considered a Bedouin beauty. These desert women as a rule are slovenly, haggard, and unattractive, and the proverbial raven haired beauty with dark eyes, pearly teeth, and hypnotic charm exists mostly in the novels. Her slavish devotion

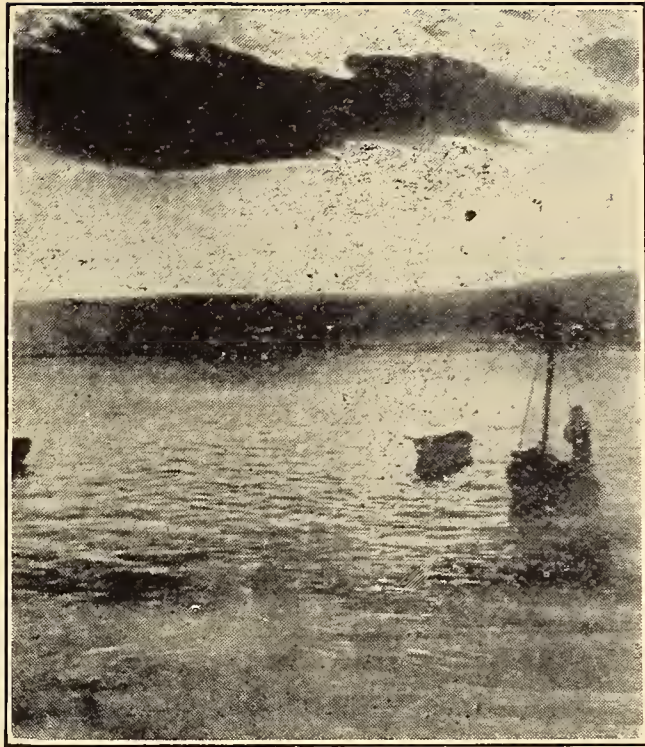
## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

to her lord with the austerities of desert life has left the disfiguring marks upon her form and feature. I am reminded of the story of Abdalla. He was a young sheik and according to prevailing custom his wife was selected by the elders of his tribe. In this instance she was the daughter of a distant sheik and Abdalla had never seen her. She was brought to the village and assigned a tent next that of her bridegroom. Soon after he visited her he emerged from her tent wailing at the height of his voice and laying handfuls of dirt upon his disconsolate head. A neighbor sheik had come over to felicitate him and found him thus lamenting. All Abdalla would say to him was, "O, you just ought to see her, you just ought to see her." "Cheer up, cheer up," said his friend, "it surely is not so bad as all that." Abdalla pointed to the tent and said, "O, you just ought to see her. Go lift the flap of the tent and look upon her." The friend did so and came back. All he had to say was, "Lay on more dirt, Abdalla, lay on more dirt."

Reaching Mezerib at two p. m., we took a branch line leading to Haifa, a port on the Mediterranean coast north of Joppa, leaving the train at Semakh on the southeast shore of the Sea of Galilee. Soon we began a tortuous descent of more than three thousand feet in the sixty miles, following the river Yarmuk, which enters the Jordan five miles south of the sea. The engineering of this descent is of the very finest. Through twenty tunnels in as many miles, creeping along the rim of a mountain, spanning high bridges, past beautiful cascades, down, down we dropped toward Galilee six hundred eighty feet below sea level. These jagged, chasmic basalt hills were streaked with paths made by the feet of many flocks which we continuously saw grazing on the dry grass or resting under the side of a hill by some quiet pool, reminding us forcibly of the twenty-third Psalm. Many of these paths led upward to some cave in the mountainside which is the sheepfold of these wild regions. Soon we pass Umkeis, the Gadara of Christ's day, situate on a high hill above our heads, over a high bridge which had recently been partially burned by Arabs, and at four p. m. we sweep into a pretty little plain and gaze for the first time on "sweet Galilee where Jesus loved so much to be," the object of our pleasurable anticipations. As we beheld it our hearts filled with emotion and our eyes with tears. Boarding a naphtha launch carrying a hundred passengers we were soon skipping over its cobalt bosom with a chug-chug that made one think of home.

Apart from its associations this, the world's most celebrated body of





**Sunrise on Galilee.**

“The whole face of the cloud shone with amber and gold and crimson and it appeared as a crystal screen holding back the sapphire depths of the glory world insistent on breaking through for our especial delight.”



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

water, would be beautiful indeed, but considering its intimate relation to the Man of Galilee who performed most of his works upon or around it, its physical beauty becomes enhanced and spiritualized and incomparable. It is five miles in width and thirteen in length, is of pear shape, the large part being at the upper or northern end. It is simply a wide place in the Jordan, which, including the Dead Sea and the intervening sixty miles of valley, is but an ancient split in the geological formation and is the deepest ditch in the world. It rises thirty-two miles north and at the ancient Bethsaida enters the sea with its dark muddy stream to leave it thirteen miles south clear and sparkling. The sea is surrounded by hills a thousand feet high that slope away from the shore line in every direction. At the time of our visit these hills were barren and somber and gray, but in the springtime they are clothed with luxuriant verdure bespeckled with many varieties of bloom. As we sailed under the western shore the sun was disappearing and the opposite hills took on the tints of lilac and lavender and brown.

"The gathering orange stain  
Upon the edge of yonder western peak  
Reflects the sunsets of a thousand years."

This ride of an hour and a half will be treasured forever.

Reaching Tiberius we were assigned to pleasing rooms and soon came supper. A long table spanning a spacious dining hall was laden with fruit, chiefly figs, fried chicken, and fish just taken from the Lake. Tell it not in Gath, but for once in a lifetime this Methodist itinerant turned down fried chicken. Who would not have done so? Fried chicken is to be had any day at home, but once only came the opportunity of eating fish from the Sea of Galilee. It seemed that never were fish so palatable or figs so delicious.

After a swim in the lake we were ready for sweet repose. Our room opened out on a balcony overlooking the sea and close to it. A lone bright star hanging near the dark hilltops on yon side sent a silver pencil of light across the placid surface as if 'twould keep watch above us while we slept. At early dawn we arose and taking our Bibles sat on the balcony. We tried to image some of the wonderful events that had transpired within the range of our vision. Just out there some three miles before us He stilled the tempest and again came walking upon its waves. Just on the other side He healed the Gadarene demoniac and to the north on yon sloping hillside He fed the multitudes, while in the solitudes of those adjacent hills He prayed.



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

On this side and to our left He called James and John from their net mending and Andrew and Peter from their fishing, and later, on an early morning like this, He stood on the beach beside a fire of coals and recommissioned Peter to the apostleship. Somewhere up there near old Magdala He sat in a boat and addressed the people, giving them the beautiful Parables of Matthew 13, and not far from shore occurred the miraculous draft of fishes. Up there at old Capernaum Peter caught the single fish with the coin in its mouth for the tribute money. On and on imagination played upon the scenes of Sacred Story. A cloud of some proportions hung low and rested upon the hilltops of the opposite shore just above the traditional site of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. While we meditated a silver ribbon kindled on its outer rim soon widening into a lucid band. Then the thin places in the cloud became suffused with radiance. Then its whole face shone with amber and gold and crimson and the cloud appeared as a crystal screen holding back the sapphire depths of the glory world insistent on bursting through for our special delight. Then slowly the curtain parted in the midst as though some angel hand were opening wide the gates for the triumphant entrance of a king. As the cloud became attenuated shafts of golden light bathed the hillside location of the miracle while imagination filled it once again with orderly multitude sitting in companies while He blessed and brake and fed. Our hearts filled with holy thoughts and loftiest impulses and we then and there rededicated our feeble powers to a sincerer execution of that high commission embodied in the miracle, that most privileged one of feeding the hungry multitudes of today with the ever satisfying Bread of Life.

“I saw Him walk beside a sea,  
Caught like a gem in gold,  
Where bloomed the hills of Galilee  
So storied, grim, and old.

“Follow me,” I heard Him cry;  
I saw the stalwart men;  
I read the answer in each eye,  
Such as had never been.

“Follow me,” they left the ship;  
They sought another sea;  
Where scarlet sails of victory dip  
Beyond the melting lea.





Tiberius by the Lake.

“The finest shore view is shown here.”





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Two thousand years have coursed the tide;  
The nets; the boat; the crew;  
All these have passed; the ocean wide  
Sings of the ships it knew.

But shrank they from the cup of pain  
Fresh from the purple press?  
Or did they leave the lake in vain,  
To toil for treasures less?

They bore a flame to farthest isle  
Across the dusky bar;  
And wait the dream-girt golden while  
Beyond the evening star."

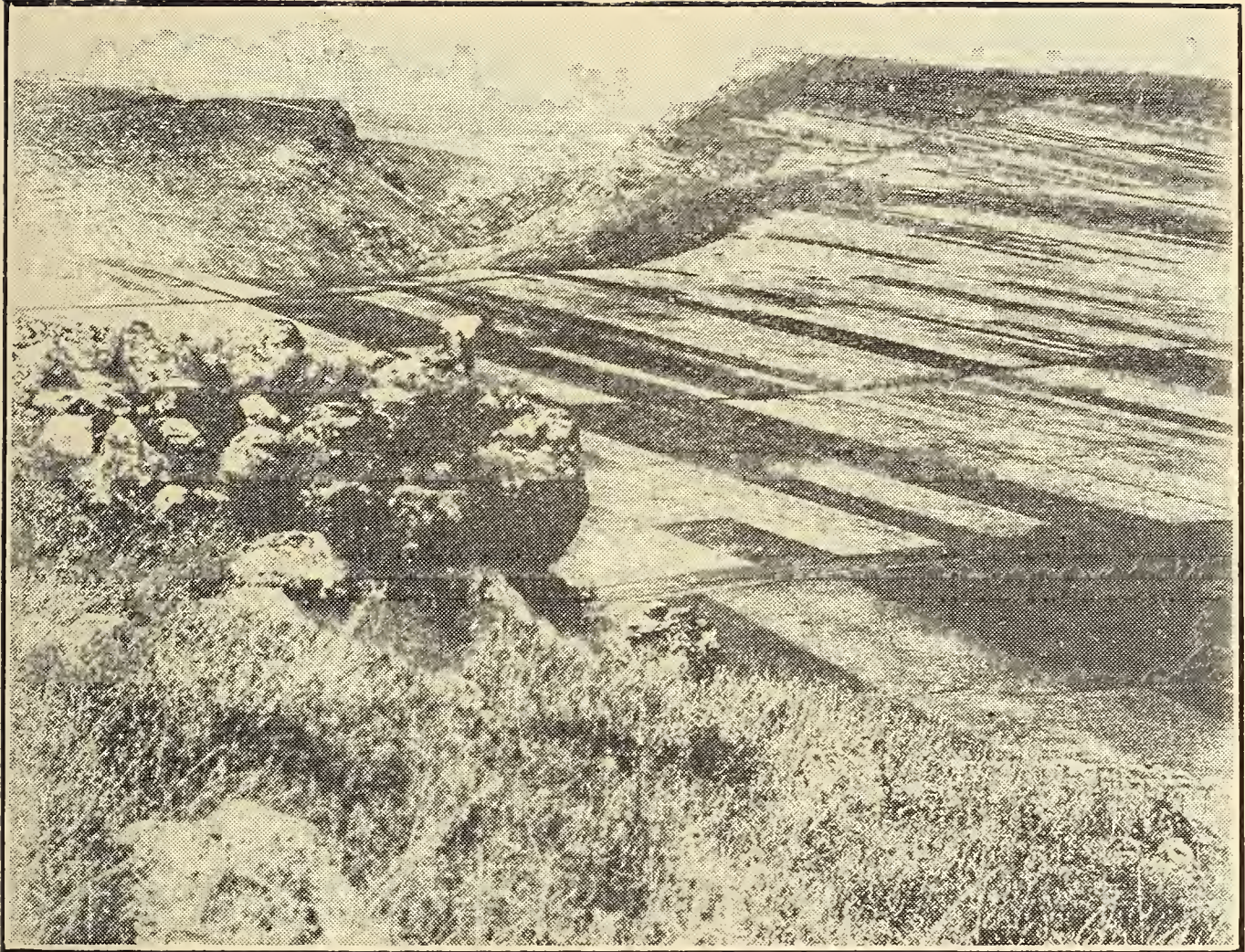
(John Jordan Douglas.)

Tiberius was built A. D. 20 by Herod Antipas and dedicated to the Emperor Tiberius, for whom it was named. It became the chief city of the province of Galilee and was adorned by handsome structures, including a royal palace and amphitheater. Jesus never visited it and the city is mentioned but once and incidentally in the New Testament. The Jews hated it intensely and very naturally because it was a Roman city built by Herod. Yet after the fall of Jerusalem they flocked to it. In the second century the Sanhedrin sat here and with it a Rabbinical school. Here the Mishna, the repository of Jewish tradition, was published. Fragments of ancient walls and aqueducts remain and some old bronzed doors with exquisite carvings testify to its ancient elegance. In 1837 an earthquake destroyed the city. Today it contains five thousand population, mostly Jews. The streets are narrow and filthy. It has been said that "the king of the fleas holds his court in Tiberius," but our hotel was clean and comfortable and beyond criticism. From Tiberius the finest shore view of the lake is afforded, though the view from Karn Hattin is more extensive. At the north end where the Jordan enters is the site of Bethsaida, the home of Andrew and Peter and Philip, and probably John. Two miles northwest among the hills is Chorazin, while on the shore toward us is Capernaum, the second home and operating center of Jesus. Nearer us is the fertile plain of Genessaret, a mile wide. Then comes Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene. Next is Dalmanutha, then Tiberius, and just below us to the south are the Hot Springs, much frequented by rheumatics. Chinnareth is just beyond. Eight other towns with these seven ranged around the border of the lake.

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

which, in the days of Jesus, according to Josephus, averaged fifteen thousand population each. "The sea was covered with vessels engaged in traffic and fisheries, and its shores were dotted with cities and villages." It was called "the unparalleled garden of God." Renan speaks of it as "a country very green and full of shade and pleasantness, the true country of the Canticles and the Psalms of the well beloved." Of all the above fifteen cities Tiberius alone remains. The others are but piles of ruins with an occasional family living in some rude hut. Even the location of most of them is problematic. Here was spent the major part of Christ's busy ministry. His feet trod the angry waves and His fiat hushed them into silence. Up and down its populous shores He "went about doing good," and each grain of sand and each drop of water here is filled with sacred sentiment and holiest associations.





### The Mount of Beatitudes.

“Twin peaks with a considerable depression between them stand out in clear outline and can be seen for miles away.”





## CHAPTER IV.

Mount of Beatitudes and Cana of Galilee.





## CHAPTER IV.

### Mount of Beatitudes and Cana of Galilee.

Two miles west from Tiberius and 1050 feet above the lake level is the Mount of the Beatitudes, or the Horns of Hattin. Twin peaks with a considerable depression between them stand out in clear outline and can be seen for miles away. A short distance off is a large flat stone lying in amphitheater shape. Here the Crusaders fixed the location of the Sermon on the Mount which Dean Stanley said "met all the requirements of the gospel narrative." On an adjoining plain to the south, July 3, 1187, the army of the Moslem general Saladin defeated the European Crusaders under Guy De Lusignion when the Cross fell finally before the Crescent and the Christian kingdom of Judea became "one with Ninevah and Tyre." This plain, which appears in the accompanying picture, lies beautifully and is being cultivated by Zionist colonists who are using modern agricultural methods. It is notable that the only modern farming implement seen was near this point. It was a sulky plow drawn by two good farm horses. It is a prophecy of what Zionists expect to do all over the Holy Land. Here is afforded the finest panoramic view of the sea "set like a gem in gold" and a large area of Galilee province. Eastward lie the mountains of Ephraim and the region of old Decapolis. To the south are the mountains of Samaria with Tabor lifting its cone shaped peak a thousand feet from the Esdraelon plain. To the east is Mount Carmel and the Mediterranean. To the north are the Anti-Lebanons with old Hermon, the most probable scene of the Transfiguration, lifting its snow-crested, glistening brow nearly ten thousand feet into the firmament. Near its base is the old city of Caesarea Philippi, the most northern point of Christ's ministry, save an indefinite reference to a brief visit into "the coasts of Tyre and Sidon." Nearby us to the north and a thousand feet still higher is the town of Safed with a long and continuous existence. It stands out white against the mountainside on which it is situated and is doubtless the "city set upon a hill that cannot be hid." The Jews believed that the Messiah would rise out of the waters of the lake, land in Tiberius, and assume his throne in Safed.

The situation of the Mount of Beatitudes is central. Here might assemble the multitudes from the fifteen cities surrounding the lake and the ten cities beyond it, from Safed and the forested regions of Galilee as far north as Mount Hermon and Caesarea, and even as far south as Jerusalem.

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Here the kingly Lawgiver issued his proclamation, his Magna Charta, the laws of his Realm, the Kingdom of God, of Heaven, the laws by which men and nations will some day live righteously, and the laws by which men and nations will some day be judged righteously. Looking downward from this elevated post we see for the last time the waters of the opaline sea in their deep basin 1,050 feet below with its wavelets crisping into foam under the wand of the morning breeze. Good-bye, "Sweet Galilee," with your pebbly beaches, your deserted mounds, your basaltic hills, your restful quietude, your poetic suggestiveness. We are loathe to depart. You have in this brief visit done much for us, but most of all you have made the Christ intensely real and His words and works more precious to our hearts. We turn away with sadness, yet there is much more to see.

Twelve miles southwest is Cana (Kefr Kenna) and to that objective we are traveling. For the next three days we are aboard open three-seated hacks with canopy tops, drawn each by three good Arabian horses. We have selected this mode for its slowness, affording opportunity at will to stop and observe, and also for reading our Bibles as we ride. The roads are good all the way to Jerusalem, which we will reach three days later. We continually saw squads of laborers, both men and women, breaking the rocks with hammers, carrying them in baskets on head or shoulder, and repairing the roadbeds. At one point we saw a modern road machine. From Hattin we crossed a ridge of hills and then out upon a level plain beautiful and fertile. We passed several small villages and about noon we came in sight of Cana. In the edge of the town was a community threshing floor with its many great piles of wheat straw and yokes of black oxen going around and around drawing flat-bottomed sleds. The bottom of the floor is of smooth stone and the feet of the animals, usually oxen, sometimes donkeys, sometimes oxen and donkeys, cut the straw into fragments, the grain settling to the floor. The straw is used as provender for the beasts of burden. Later the grain is winnowed from "the chaff which the wind driveth away." The writer approached a Syrian thresher and by gesticulation asked for the privilege of driving the oxen. It was cheerfully granted. It looked to be dead easy. But the oxen circled around a couple of times and virtually all the straw was piled high around the driver and then the oxen deliberately refused to go further and turned their heads to the driver and looked straight at him as much as to ask, "What fool is this come to Cana?" Observation (1). Many things which look to be easy are not so.





The Well at Cana of Galilee.

“From here came the water that ‘saw its god and blushed.’ The one authentic spot in Cana.”





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

There is an art in doing the simplest things. Observation (2). In traveling abroad don't be too anxious to take on too many thrills. For instance, at Beirut immediately on landing, even before going to the hotel, the writer gave a street vendor a genuinely good United States nickle for a Syrian soft drink from a goat skin bag. It might have been dog skin. In fact from odor and taste I affirm it was. It had the flavor of camphor, asafoetida, billygoat, and Damascus dog all in one. A sip was sufficient for the whole tour. Adjoining the threshing floor there is a large characteristic cactus fence or hedge. The fences in Palestine are either cactus or rock walls. Rocks are everywhere but cactus grows naturally and without labor. Furthermore it produces large, juicy, prickly pears in abundance, which are eaten by the people with a relish. A sharp hooked blade on the end of a staff dexterously wielded gathers the fruit and it is peeled from the end of a fork so as to avoid the multitude of minute needles.

Kefr Kenna is a clean town of 1000 people with square stone houses. It was the home of Nathaniel and many fig trees of great size and shade still afford retreats where one might read and meditate. Jesus was here when He healed the Centurion's servant at Capernaum, fifteen miles away. But it is most famed because it was here that the "first miracle that He wrought" was performed when at His will "the conscious water saw its God and blushed" into the best wine at the last of the feast. We can never be too thankful for that first miracle, for it not only teaches how simple things under His touch are raised to sublime value and significance, but sanctifies marriage and sweetens human life by His presence and mixture in the glad festivities of a marriage feast. Two Catholic churches, Greek and Roman, dispute the site of the miracle. In the Greek church are shown two large water pots as the identical vessels used on that occasion. The room purporting to be the scene of the marriage is shown with crude pictures of the event daubed on the walls. Of course this claim is groundless and the building is comparatively modern. However, as we left the town we passed one authentic spot at least. It was the well from which the water was taken for the miracle. It is and ever has been the only well in the town. As we came to it the women were there with their water pots.

Kefr Kenna is not a town of such importance today as to justify dwelling upon it with such length, but to our party a most beautiful episode occurred there that we shall always treasure as one of the radiant spots of our pilgrimage. In 1914 Rev. J. M. Rowland, now of Richmond, Va., our genial

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

and capable conductor, was in Palestine over our identical route. His home congregation had presented him with a Bible which, of course, he highly prized and which was his constant companion. Leaving his conveyance for some little side trip the Bible was stolen. He never expected to hear from it again. The war came on and its loss had been reconciled. In 1919 he received a letter from a Syrian girl of Cana stating that she had bought the Bible from a Turk for a few piasters, hoping to preserve it for the owner, whose name and address appeared on the fly leaf. Mr. Rowland immediately wrote her to forward it to him, enclosing a nice contribution, and requesting a long letter as to herself, her plans, her family, etc., which letter he duly received. It turned out that she, Monera Saffouri, was one of three children of the only Protestant Christian family in Cana and for many years her ancestors had been faithful Christians under great persecutions. At the time of our visit Monera was seventeen, her older sister Karemy nineteen, and her younger brother was fifteen. The two girls had been students in the Protestant Episcopal Mission School at Jerusalem and Karemy was then teaching in the local school. The war had interrupted their further education. Monera was in 1914 but a child but her letter, so well composed and so neatly written, indicated a bright mind and beautiful character. She turned out to be as beautiful in form and feature as in character. A more attractive maiden one would not wish to see. Her brunette complexion softened and refined by Christian fervor and sentiment, with her sweet musical voice immediately won all our hearts, for we had all known her story and anticipated this pleasurable meeting. The aged father, after paying heavy exemption for two years and being unable to pay more, was conscripted into the Turkish army and taken far away. Soldiers and moslem neighbors had taken all available furniture and food and the mother and children were enduring unspeakable hardships with worse dangers from the drunken soldiers daily threatening. Then came the sentence of exile. Across the vast stretches to some unknown world, possibly to some Turkish harem, for these beautiful Christian girls they must go on a day close at hand. Tears and entreaties were fruitless. They were Christians and enemies of the Sultan's kingdom and spies. They must go at once. It meant certain death and worse. In extreme desperation they went to God in prayer and fasting. Kneeling on the bare floor of a darkened room for hours with the Bible she had found pressed to her heart she prayed on and on and on with childlike appeal and faith. So were the others praying.



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

A commotion was heard in the streets and Lo! General Allenby had entered the town and the Turks were fleeing never to return, thank God. Victory and deliverance had come. Prayer had won. God had not forgotten. Dr. Rowland assumed the completion of Monera's education and she is soon to come to America to enter one of our best Christian colleges. She is fitting herself for Christian missionary work among her own people in far off Palestine. How strange is the chequer work of Providence. The loss of this Bible became the guiding incident that gives Christian education to this capable young woman and provides for the extension of the knowledge of the Bible perhaps among thousands and thousands for all coming time. This Turk was led to offer this Bible for sale to the only Christian family in all that section. Just twenty miles south one time long ago a noble youth was maliciously sold into slavery by his brothers but later events placed him upon a pinnacle of power and influence that affected the salvation of a nation from death and guided the stream of future human history. The other two children have a consuming desire for an education. Let us hope that it may be gratified.

We were met at the threshing floor by the old father and the children. Letters had gone ahead that we were coming to pay them a visit. Mr. Rowland immediately recognized Monera from photographs she had sent him and the meeting was very touching indeed. I can see them now standing hand in hand with their faces glowing with mutual regard. We were led to their simple home, which was a model of neatness. Everything showed the touch of Christian refinement in striking contrast with the adjacent moslem homes. Lunch was prepared for us but as we had brought our lunch from Tiberius we united ours with theirs in a royal feast of good and simple fare in the bonds of Christian fellowship. The relish of those Syrian honey cakes abides. After lunch we had religious services conducted by Dr. Rowland and then he asked Monera to tell the story of the lost Bible. Sweetly, simply, with full composure she talked in perfectly good English. Its effect upon us all was electric and our emotions overcame us and a mountain top experience words cannot describe was ours. Then the maidens sang "Galilee" for us. Such melody, such touching rendering of that beautiful song so replete with holy sentiment we had never heard before. Every noble impulse stirred by the beautiful lake we had that morning left came flooding back upon us. After other songs were sung we reluctantly bade a fond farewell to this worthy family in the far away land of the Christ.

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Mr. Rowland out of the princely bigness of his heart is endeavoring to provide for the education of the other two young people, Karemy and the brother. We are sure that any assistance in this laudable endeavor will be much appreciated by him. He left with Monera a purse of \$300 and they started to school again in Jerusalem and on the way all this was stolen by some wicked Turk whose diabolical heart is too black for my inadequate words to begin to describe. How pathetic! Can't some one come to the rescue?

## CHAPTER V.

**Nazareth and Esdraelon.**





## CHAPTER V.

### Nazareth and Esdraelon.

Six miles south from Cana we suddenly came upon the hilltop above and looked down on Nazareth, once a hiss and a byword, but now one of the three most sacred cities of the world, the other two being, of course, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, for here our Lord grew up in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man, and here He resided for almost thirty years, sanctifying and dignifying human toil, His profound meditations on the deep things of God being tuned to the rhythmic push of the plane and the soft rustle of the falling shavings. It is a clean little city of probably fifteen thousand inhabitants situated in a three quarter basin made by hills four hundred feet higher, on the slopes of which part of the city is built. The Nazareth valley is a mile long and half as wide and presents a pleasing view, shut in as it is by the guardian hills with its comparatively modern buildings with iron balconies and red tiled roofs and groves of almonds, figs, pomegranates, olives, and gardens of melons and cucumbers set apart by hedges of prickly pear. The streets are irregular but paved with cobblestones, while the sidewalks of stone are two feet wide and raised a foot above the street level.

Nazareth is now largely a Christian town composed mostly of Greek Catholics, though the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society conducts here a mission school, an orphanage, and a hospital that accomplish a vast deal of good and are deeply entrenched in popular appreciation. Some Mohammedans are also here with two mosques and graceful minarets. Allow me to state here that in the Orient the word Christian includes all Catholics and Protestants as distinguished from Mohammedans and Jews and all other non-Christian faiths. The Christians of Nazareth are very kind and courteous and are the best type of citizens we met in Palestine. Their homes are more cleanly and their demeanor more civil, due perhaps to its long possession of Christian institutions. The women are fairly attractive, perhaps as much so as at Bethlehem, whose women are said to excel all in Palestine in beauty, though I saw nothing strikingly excelling in either. We were beset at our hotel entrance by numbers of women with hands full of beautiful laces. They escorted us along the streets pleading most piteously with us to buy of them, which we did. The work was beautiful and the prices reasonable. We found English well spoken here and the children

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

are all learning the language in the government schools. This is true all over the Holy Land and it will not be many years until one can make any part of it without an interpreter.

Of course Nazareth gets its interest from its Christian traditions and relations to Christ and His family, without which it would be but a wide place in the road. It is not once mentioned by any Old Testament writer or by Josephus or any classical author before Christ. For some reason it was held in disrepute. Hence Nathaniel's question, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" It is mentioned twenty-seven times in the New Testament. Many traditional sites, few of which are authentic, are shown the tourist, but it is sufficient to know that He was here "conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary" and consecrated its soil for thirty years with His holy feet. We visited the Church of the Annunciation where the angel announced His coming birth. A marble altar with tablet containing the Latin inscription "Hic verbum caro factum est," (Here the Word was made flesh), stands at one end of the chapel. On either side is a marble column, the one marking where the angel Gabriel stood in making the annunciation, the other where the Virgin stood in receiving it. Mary's column is broken and suspends from the ceiling miraculously, you are told. Through a doorway we enter the Chapel of Joseph, and then we descend still deeper underground into Mary's kitchen, which is nothing but an old underground cistern. The chimney is but the overhead opening through which the water entered and was drawn. The above church incorporates the "Holy House," or Casa Santa. However, the Roman Catholics claim that it was transported by angel hands to Loreto in southeastern Italy, and it is now visited by hundreds of thousands annually and is one of Rome's most venerated shrines. On one side of the above church is the Virgin's Fountain, the only authentic location in the city. From the spring under the church the waters are conducted to the exterior through pipes and issue in three spouts. This is the only spring or well in Nazareth and little of its water wastes. At all hours of the day, especially toward sunset, a motley throng, mostly women, gather here and retail the neighborhood gossip, as it was in the days of His childhood. The women carry their waterpots on their heads with skill and precision. Often their babies are carried with them and the children run alongside. That neatly dressed mother with the eight year old brightfaced boy by her side might have been centuries ago Mary and Jesus, she trudging along with her burden





**The Fountain of the Virgin at Nazareth.**

“Here came Mary to fill her waterpots as is done today, the boy Jesus by her side.”





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

and He entertaining her with His childish and musical prattle. You are shown the school Christ attended in the interior of a monastery and in a chapel built in 1858 the identical workshop of Joseph and later of Jesus Himself, for tradition affirms that Joseph died not many years after the birth of Jesus and that He assumed the support of the mother and younger children. No mention is made of Joseph with Mary during His ministry and at the cross Jesus committed her to John's care. It is not, of course, the original, but is identical in appearance, for, as elsewhere stated, the mode of occupation in Palestine is gripped in a vise of long and unbroken conventionality and all things are done as it was in the beginning when Tubal Cain fashioned the metals into cunning artifice or Bezaleel the tabernacle curtains with skillful needle. We passed a carpenter shop with a man and a boy making yokes and boxes and thought that it might be a duplicate of the one of long ago. In another church we were shown the table on which Christ was said to have dined with His disciples both before and after His resurrection, notwithstanding that He was forcibly ejected from Nazareth early in His ministry. Then we were taken to the synagogue He attended and from which He was cast out and led to the brow of the hill to be cast down to His death, which death He miraculously escaped. This synagogue is probably on or near the original location as it was built by the Crusaders on the ruins of the first and earlier one, whose history can be traced back to A. D. 570. It is now a Greek church and presents the anomaly of a Catholic congregation appropriating a Jewish synagogue. A gorgeous altar with many candles is inside a door at the end and above are the pictures of Christ and Mary and the Apostles. The Mount of Precipitation is shown you two miles south of the city. It is a high bluff and the most one could say in its favor as the real location is that one could be precipitated to his death very easily from it, but not far from the synagogue is a bluff that would answer every requirement for the act and for the gospel narrative. The sudden and volcanic temper of the Oriental, with passions fierce, quick, and vindictive would have sought instinctively the nearest and most accessible spot for this purpose and their volatile passions would have cooled down before they had walked two miles, had they been energetic enough to do so. Alas for Nazareth that eventful day! For when Jesus passed through their midst and went His way He left the city to the just deprivation of His presence and untold blessings amongst them. The Nazarenes are not the only people who



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

have been too stupid to appraise properly talent and virtue and ability within their confines. Was it not true that His own mother misunderstood Him and His own brothers and sisters said He was insane? To this event we are due the well-known adage that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country."

A point of special interest that no tourist should omit is the Dome of Neby Sain, or the Tomb of Simeon. It is a high hill four hundred feet above the city on the northwestern side. The location of Simeon's final resting place, if authentic, is of interest, but the view is sublime. For miles and miles the whole Galilee region unrolls in a panorama that for beauty and historic interest is unparalleled. To the north is Mount Hermon lifting his hoary head heavenward. To the east is the Jordan valley and beyond it the mountains of Gilead. To the west is the Carmel range "like some long reptilian giant sleeping by the sea," its gazelle nose jutting into the sea, and its highest point being the traditional site of Elijah's victorious contest with the priests of Baal. Beyond, the Great Sea shines like an opal gem in the sunlight. To the south are the mountains of Samaria with the twin mountains of Ebal and Gerizim looming in the distance, while on the near side and in the immediate prospect sleeps the wonderful and historic Plain of Esdraelon about which more must be said. This elevation was doubtless a favorite resort for Jesus and the past history of visible sites doubtless stirred His soul and the beauties of nature so oft considered charmed Him into sympathetic interpretation. And doubtless here after a hard day's toil He would often pray and meditate under the stars of God.

Traveling south we come soon to the edge of this celebrated plain. It is the prettiest spot in Palestine. In shape it is a triangle some fifteen miles across and every foot of it is filled with historic traditions and associations. Across it from southeast to northwest stretches the "Brook Kishon," dry at the time of our visit, but in the rainy season a raging torrent being supplied by many tributary rivulets. It might easily have justified Debora's poetic tribute in her song of victory, "The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon," when "the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." This plain is the world's most famous battleground. From Barak and Debora, and more ancient still, to Napoleon and Allenby, warriors of many nations have encamped here and their banners have floated over it and have been wet "with the dews of Hermon."





### Esdraelon.

“The world’s most famous battlefield. Every foot of it is filled with his toric associations. Here ‘the stars in their courses fought against Sisera. ”







## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

“Monarchs of Palestine, and Kings of Tyre,  
And brave Maccabee have all been here;  
And Cestius, with his Roman plunderers;  
And Saladin and Baldwin, and the host  
Of fierce Crusaders, from the British north,  
And shook their swords above thee, and their blood  
Flowed down like water to thine ancient sea.”

The ancient highway between Egypt and Mesopotamia and the far east traversed this valley, entering through a pass at the eastern end of the Jezreel plain, a subsidiary division of the larger Esdraelon plain, and leaving it through another pass near the sea leading out through the beautiful plain of Acca, merging into Sharon. The road from north to south likewise crossed it. Here converged the highways of ancient commerce and here was spilt much of human gore as back and forth surged the contending armies of the nations. The valley is called at its western side the Valley of Megiddo. Twenty battlefields range around it and on its surface. So much so that John in Revelation 16:16 makes it the type of the final contest between the forces of good and evil, the Armageddon, Ur meaning city, and Megiddo troops, city of troops. Says a most eminent authority, Dr. George Adam Smith, in his *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*, “We are impressed with the great arena traversed through the centuries by commerce, war, and judgment. From Jezreel (his position of observation) you see the slaughter place of the priests of Baal; you see Jehu ride from Bethshan to the vineyard of Naboth at your feet, the enormous camp of Holofernes spreading from the hills above Jenin, marching and countermarching Syrians, Egyptians, and Jews in the days of the Hasmoneans, the elephants and engines of Antiochus, the litters of Cleopatra, the camps of the Romans and the wonderful men of old Rome at their heads—Pompey, Mark Anthony, Vespasian, and Titus. Here crossed the early Christians, and later came the Moslems from the desert, and then the mighty Crusaders, till the magnificent Saladin drove them out and the Mohammedans held sway until the mighty Napoleon dreamed of an empire on the Euphrates and swept across here with his conquering forces, only to be beaten and to recross this plain in his first retreat.” It was the portion of Isacher and no spot of Palestine possessed more potential value. Yet for centuries it has been only a grazing plain due to its being infested by wandering bands of Bedouins that seized the harvests and preyed upon

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

the defenseless farmers. Hence its wonderful richness has lain unutilized and today not one-sixth of its acreage is tilled. However, a better day is near for the railroad from Damascus to Haifa, opened in 1905, crosses the plain and signs of its reclamation are apparent and great agricultural operations are taking shape under the protection of English soldier police, whose white tents we saw in a pleasant little valley by a stream. We also saw them riding back and forth all over Palestine. It was to us a most agreeable sight.

We slowly jogged along across this plain with Bible and Concordance on our lap while the above reflections crowded in upon our minds. At a modern town called Fuleh in the middle of the plain the Beersheba branch of the railroad—begun in 1913—starts southward. We overtook its terminus at Shechem in 1921. It will soon reach Jerusalem.

The above picture looking west from Jezreel shows the beautiful lay of the valley and some of the quite recent efforts at wheat raising. The harvest was over and threshing was on. I described in the preceding chapter a threshing floor at Cana. In the bazaarh section of Nazareth we saw a fine old white bearded patriarch sitting by a pile of wheat unmindful of our attention, intently engaged in measuring the grain brought to him. He was the official gauger, or wheat measurer, of Nazareth. He is noted for his honesty and justice. He piles it on by hands full until not another grain falls from the heaped up measure. No one ever questions his decision or impugns his honor. He is an example of God's generosity to the unselfish and Jesus was thinking of this time honored custom when he used the expression "heaped up, pressed down and shaken together and running over."

In this valley lie the ruins of a number of well known cities of sacred and historic significance. On the east, ranged around the base of Little Hermon, the "Hill of Moreh," are Endor where dwelt the witch consulted by the desperate Saul, Shunem where Elisha restored the son of his good friends to life, and Nain where the Christ performed a similar miracle for a heartbroken widow. Near here in the Valley of Jezreel, above mentioned, is Bethshan, Gilboa, Gideon's Fountain, and Jezreel itself, the summer capital of Ahab and his wicked queen Jezebel whose inflamed and passionate blood doubtless made the dogs that drank it more savage and vicious. Nearby the palace was the coveted vineyard of poor old Naboth slain in cold and barbarous cruelty. On the south is En-gannim (modern Jenin), the city of

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

the ten lepers, and Taanach, mentioned in Debora's song and also in inscriptions found in Karnak in Egypt. And on the southwest is Megiddo, near where the main highway entered from the way of the sea. None of these towns are more than mere skeletons of their ancient existence and have but few inhabitants living in simple stone huts. Megiddo itself has had to be reclaimed and identified by archaeologists who are still at work there. Its modern name is Lejjun.





## CHAPTER VI.

Dothan—Samaria—Shechem.





## CHAPTER VI.

### Dothan—Samaria—Shechem.

We ate our lunch under a wide spreading mulberry tree at Jenin where is a grove of fig trees, some of them a foot in diameter and richly laden with fruit. There is also a large fountain near which is a fine monument to an English officer killed in an aeroplane accident. At the fountain women were beating the dirt from garments dipped in the water and laid upon a flat rock. At Jenin we had a good opportunity to observe the difference between Christian and Mohammedan character. We were traveling in three large vehicles. The drivers of the two forward ones were Mohammedans. That of ours, the last one, a Christian young man from Tiberius. Dr. S. had dropped his purse from the first vehicle. The driver of the second saw it fall and stopped his team just over its position on the ground. Under pretense of adjusting the harness he slyly picked up the purse and slipped it into his blouse. Our boy saw the whole transaction and at Jenin when we stopped he informed Dr. S. of the affair and George compelled the rascal to produce the purse, much to the comfort of our esteemed companion and our appreciation for our Christian driver. Christianity works. The Palestinian peasant is noted for his duplicity, dishonesty, until he finds Christ. Then he is a gentleman.

Four miles south we come to the pretty vale of Dothan, named from the town of Dothan, ruins of which have been found on the hill rising from the middle part of the valley. Near the road is a typical spring at which shepherds were watering flocks of white sheep and black goats. This is probably the site of the sale of Joseph into captivity, a pit nearby on the hill near a terebinth tree being pointed out as the place of his temporary confinement. The perfidy of these brethren is seen in the large when we recall that the noble hearted Joseph had walked sixty miles, coming from "the vale of Hebron" across a rough country with food and refreshment for these ingrates, the journey requiring at least two days. He came first to Shechem and was found wandering about seeking for them, and on being informed that they had gone north eighteen miles to Dothan, hurried forward to find them, only to be seized and cruelly sold into slavery for his kindness. They were no more humane than some of the modern Bedouin tribes that invade this region. The history of Dothan dates back to the sixteenth

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

century before Christ. It was well known in the fourth century A. D. and lost in the twelfth. Here dwelt for awhile Elisha and his servant who was so terrified at the sight of the Syrian army surrounding the city on that early morning, while the old prophet was wonderfully composed because he beheld the presence of a vaster army of "the horses and chariots of the Lord" ringing around the city and themselves. We are now treading historic ground indeed as we journey southward toward the Holy City, and the Old Testament events are standing out in bold outline and with a new significance and interpretation. All this history was well known to Jesus and often had He traveled this same route and into His education had gone the historic significance of all these locations and events as the ancient people of God had surged back and forth in contest with their enemies either to possess the promised land or to keep it.

We pass through a defile and emerge into another valley in the midst of which is a larger hill than Dothan, on which was a more celebrated city. I refer to Samaria, the modern name of which is Sebaste, which is the Greek for Augusta, the feminine for Augustus the Emperor, for whom Herod named the city when he rebuilt it. The hill is 300 feet above the "Vale of Barley" surrounding it. Its appearance has been described as "a cup within a bowl, or a cone within a volcano," perhaps recalling the present appearance of Vesuvius as we saw it in August 1921. It is not to be confused with the province of Samaria in which it sat as "crown" or capitol. The city was named from Shemer, from whom it was bought, and the province took its name from the city. It was built by Omri, king of Israel, B. C. 925, and was the capitol of the ten tribes for 200 years, or until 722, when after a siege of three years by Shalmanezar, king of Syria, it was captured and destroyed and the "crown" demolished. Omri was succeeded by his ambitious son Ahab who lavished his wealth upon it. He built a gorgeous "ivory palace" in which he sat in luxury and in sin, being swayed by the wicked caprices of the violent Jezebel, the queen who ruled the king who ruled Israel. He also built a Temple of Baal and made the worship of the sun the state religion. Elijah and Elisha figured in its history and the former thundered against its idolatry. Here Ben-Hadad, king of Syria, and his thirty-two allied kings, gathered in siege only to be miraculously dispersed. Here Elijah predicted the three years' drought, and later came that strange episode of Elisha leading the blinded army of



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

the Syrians to captivity, one man—and God—against a multitude. Here came home from Ramah the bloody chariot of the wicked king Ahab bearing his corpse. In the pool on the east side of the hill the chariot was washed of its blood. During the reign of Hosea, as above stated, the city was captured by King Shalmanezzer and its inhabitants, with the majority of the ten tribes, were scattered into exile from which they never returned. Syrians were imported in their stead. These intermarried with certain remaining Jews and formed the Samaritans. In 333 B. C. the province fell to Alexander the Great, who removed the Samaritans to Shechem. Then it receded to the Syrians and the Ptolemaic kings. In 198 B. C. it was conquered by the despicable Antiochus, who even sacrificed a sow upon the altar of the Holy Place in the Temple in Jerusalem. His excesses provoked the Maccabees to revolt and thence came a series of wars leading up to the Roman occupation and subjugation by Pompey B. C. 63. In B. C. 40, Herod, son of Antipater, was appointed from Rome the king of the Jews. He two years later married the beautiful Mariamne, granddaughter of John Hyrcanus of the house of the Maccabees, and appointed her brother Aristobulus III the High Priest, thus merging church and state.

Herod rebuilt and embellished Samaria and to his palace there he took Queen Mariamne. She never loved him, neither respected him, but he loved her passionately and always came back to her. Yet, instigated by his mother, he murdered her in a fit of insane jealousy. He was never the same again. On the top of the hill in a level basin Herod built his theater. Nearly 100 elegant columns two feet thick and sixteen feet high stand as a relic of those splendid adornments. Around the hill extended a driveway three thousand feet in length and bordered by a colonade. Fountains sparkled amongst overhanging arbors and birds sang amidst blooming trellises of rambling vines. Terrace after terrace from the vale to the top presented the appearance of a verdant staircase. Everything bore the mark of luxury and extravagance.

Herod was a dashing, brilliant, ambitious, high-spirited ruler with the desert blood of Esau in his veins. He was a politician of the first order and as fast as one ruler succeeded another in Rome had the faculty of aligning himself with the favored side and perpetuating his power in Judea, to the bitter disappointment of the Jews. He not only rebuilt Samaria, but restored Jerusalem to its former glory, his temple probably excelling



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

He made a tropical garden of Jericho, rich and splendid, which he redeemed from the beautiful Cleopatra, upon whom the infatuated Anthony had bestowed it. He built Tiberius, as formerly stated. Lastly he built his own tomb on a high, cone-shaped hill called today Frank Mountain (Jebel Fireidis) near Bethlehem. It was called his Herodium, was artificially constructed, and its circular summit contains today castled walls and towers and chambers. To it Herod, having died at Jericho, was brought to fatten the worms that consumed his bloated remains not long after the adjacent hillsides echoed to the melody of the angels' song announcing the birth of the real King of the Jews, and near which spot his unspeakable cruelty had occasioned the slaughter of so many innocent babes. It has been well said that "he was a super-monster in a race of brutal monsters, the scourge of the world."

But Herod made the new Samaria. It is today but a small, dirty village with two hundred miserable inhabitants and some cactus hedges and a little bunch of palms, amidst a debris of fallen columns and temple stones which speak eloquently by contrast of its desolation with its former grandeur. Its relation to sacred and profane history justifies this lengthy treatise of a city that is no more. Isaiah's graphic prophecy is fulfilled, "The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under foot, and the glorious beauty which is on the head of the fat valley shall be a fading flower." Ahab, Herod, two dashing personalities of Samaria. Each might have served well his day and generation, but each surrendered himself to inordinate ambition and dissipation and exploitation of the populace, and went down "to the vile dust from whence they sprung, unwept, unhonored, and unsung." St. Philip came to Samaria "and preached Christ unto them, and the people with one accord gave heed." As Nablus (Shechem) increased Sebaste (Samaria) waned. In an old, dilapidated church you are shown the supposed tomb of John the Baptist, though the claim is made, remember, that his head is buried in the Great Mosque at Damascus. Beside this tomb is that of Elijah and Obadiah and one other.

Six miles from Sebaste we come to Shechem nestling in the pass between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim which stand 3000 feet above sea level and 800 above the plain. The first mention we have of the city dates back 2100 years to the days of Abraham's journey from Padan-Aram westward. In Gen. 12:6 we are told that he came to "the place of Sichem," and that "the Caananite was then in the land." Here God appeared and promised to give





Nablus or Shechem.

“Nestling in the beautiful pass between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim.”







## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

this land to him and to his posterity, and Abraham built an altar and worshipped, as was his custom. Some 400 years or so later Jacob and his sons came that way and bought of Sichem for 100 pieces of silver (lambs) a parcel of ground just east of the present city. He also built an altar and digged a well which remains until this day. His sons, Simeon and Levi, destroyed all the males of Shechem under an unfair artifice in revenge for an insult to their sister Dinah by Sichem. Here came Joseph's brethren to feed their father's flock, and not far hence, as above mentioned, they consummated the act of arch-treachery by selling him into captivity. Here Jotham, standing on a rock pulpit on the side of Gerizim uttered that beautiful Parable of the Trees, the only parable in the Old Testament. Here in a valley between gently sloping hills which make an ideal location for the purpose, both in space and acoustics, Joshua assembled the multitudes and delivered unto them the law as Moses had commanded. Here after Solomon's death occurred the division of the kingdom when Shechem became the capitol of the ten tribes of Israel. Here came our Savior and abode two days at their urgent petition proclaiming the life giving words unto them. As above stated, in 333 B. C. Alexander removed all the Samaritans from Samaria to Shechem, where they have remained until this day in ever-dwindling numbers. Shechem was the birthplace of Justin Martyr.

It has been said that Palestine affords no more beautiful town than Shechem, now called Nablus, a corruption of Neapolis, new city. It abounds in springs, fountains, and rivulets. There are said to be eighty springs in the city, each bearing a separate name. In the springtime and early summer the hillsides are robed in loveliness. Gardens, groves, and green meadows abound. Here flourish the melon and the cucumber, the citron and the pomegranate, the almond and the fig, the orange and the apple, the vine and the clive. As one author has stated it, "Here a scene of almost unparalleled verdure burst upon our view. The whole valley was filled with gardens of vegetables and orchards of all kinds of fruits, watered by several fountains, which burst forth in several parts and flowed westward in refreshing streams. It came upon us suddenly like a scene of fairy enchantment. We saw nothing to compare with it in all Palestine." At the time we visited here we saw little to charm us. The main highway has always passed through the city and the high mountains on either side are natural fortifications, while the narrow vale could be easily fortified at each

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

end. The above photograph was made from Mt. Ebal and shows the city and Mt. Gerizim with the pathway of its ascent to the place of the Samaritan celebration of the Passover.

The city has 25,000 inhabitants, mostly Mohammedans, who have always borne a bad name for discourtesy to travelers, whom they call "Nasrani," or Nazarenes. There are some Christians and a hospital which we visited conducted by the Church of England. All its beds were full and conversations with some of the patients revealed deep gratitude for such Christian attention. We later saw the physician in charge devoutly at worship at St. George's Jerusalem. There is a mission house and a school and a Protestant service every Sunday. We stopped at a hotel which was a converted monastery. Its walls 18 inches thick afforded a feeling of security but its little cell rooms were rather stuffy. The table fare was good but certain other accommodations very unsatisfactory. It was the only point of our whole tour where the hotel accommodations were not pleasing.

The most interesting point of observation is the Samaritan quarter in the southwestern part of the town. Here since the days of Alexander have dwelt all of this sect existent in the world. They are a mixed race with a mixed religion. Dating back from the rebuilding of Jerusalem by Zerubabel, they have been inveterate enemies of the Jews. At that time they at first sought to assist them and on being declined did all possible to prevent it. A rival temple was built on Mt. Gerizim and though it is long fallen into ruins, only some columns and hewn stones remaining, yet they annually hold the Feast of the Passover here with great ceremony and devotion. A few have witnessed this celebration and the descriptions of it as given them is indeed fascinating, but we cannot attempt to give any account, not having witnessed it. They believe in one God and are expecting the advent of the Messiah. They also believe in immortality and the resurrection. Their Bible is the Pentateuch only. They claim to possess the original manuscript written by Abishua, the great grandson of Aaron, eleven years after the death of Moses, and that the present antique copy was made 2600 years ago. The High Priest who admitted us to their synagogue very devoutly brought out a very old script in double roll in a brass case adorned with Venetian scroll work and covered with a silken scarf. Scholars have dated the original as having been produced about the sixth century. They exhibit this to a stream of tourists with all seriousness and



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

would be offended if you were to question its authenticity. Small reproductions are offered for sale and you are expected to buy. You are also expected to leave a liberal donation to the Priest for carrying on his work.

There are today but 200 Samaritans. Their policy of intermarriage has depleted the sect and those who remain are sickly and pale and effeminate. Their long, curly, silky hair and loose flowing robes make one want to address them as "Madam." Soon this interesting people will be no more and the Codex Sinaiticus will repose in some musty vault as one of the world's forgotten scrolls.

The chief industry of Nablus is soap making. It is said that there are twenty soap factories here. Apparently all of it is exported as I saw no evidence of its local use. It is made from olive oil. Its bazarrhs are dark and cramped and unattractive. We were not sorry to leave and to hasten on to the Holy City, which we reached the selfsame day.





## CHAPTER VII.

**Jacob's Well—Shiloh—Bethel.**





## CHAPTER VII.

### Jacob's Well—Shiloh—Bethel.

Less than one mile out from Shechem in the beautiful "vale of Sichem" are two of the most authentic spots of Palestine, as well as among the most venerated and interesting. I refer to Jacob's well and Joseph's tomb. A well of water here is everlasting and its necessity guarantees its preservation. A tomb of some worthy is always a venerated shrine, both to Jew and Moslem, as previously stated and of which more will be said. We are told in Gen. 26 that the Philistines had filled up certain wells that Abraham had digged in Gerar. It is probable that here the envy of the Shechemite shepherds made it necessary that Jacob have his own well. The Old Testament is silent on the specific reason why this well was digged. It is enough to know that it filled its place not only for Jacob, his own family and flocks, but that it still lives in its perennial blessings to a grateful posterity. It has not only become immortal for itself, but has been immortalized in that the wearied Master rested by its side and a great sermon was preached from its curb as a pulpit, even though His audience were but one soiled and misguided soul. A little northeast on the slope of Ebal is Sychar, modern Askar, which gives the name to this valley, the plain of Askar. This was the scene of a fierce battle during the recent war and this pleasant vale lay heaped with the slain while its surface was pitted with shell holes made by the guns of both British and Turk from their emplacement on the neighboring mountains. How different that day from one long gone when the Prince of Peace sat upon the cobbled curb of the well and surveyed this valley with its rich and fertile acreage waving golden in the breeze, symbolizing to Him that greater harvest of perishing souls of that and of every generation with its ever tragic scarcity of reapers. While sitting here there came the woman from Sychar to fill her waterpot from its refreshing abundance, and there ensued one of the most memorable conversations of history. Here He unfolded to her inquiring soul the deep truth of the spirituality of God and the privileged universality of His worship, as well as the satisfying and copious abundance of the water of eternal life ever springing up within. Here met the sinner and the Saviour face to face. And this rapid dialog with its vivid imagery and penetrating diagnosis of her real condition led her to cry out "Sir, give me this water that I thirst

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

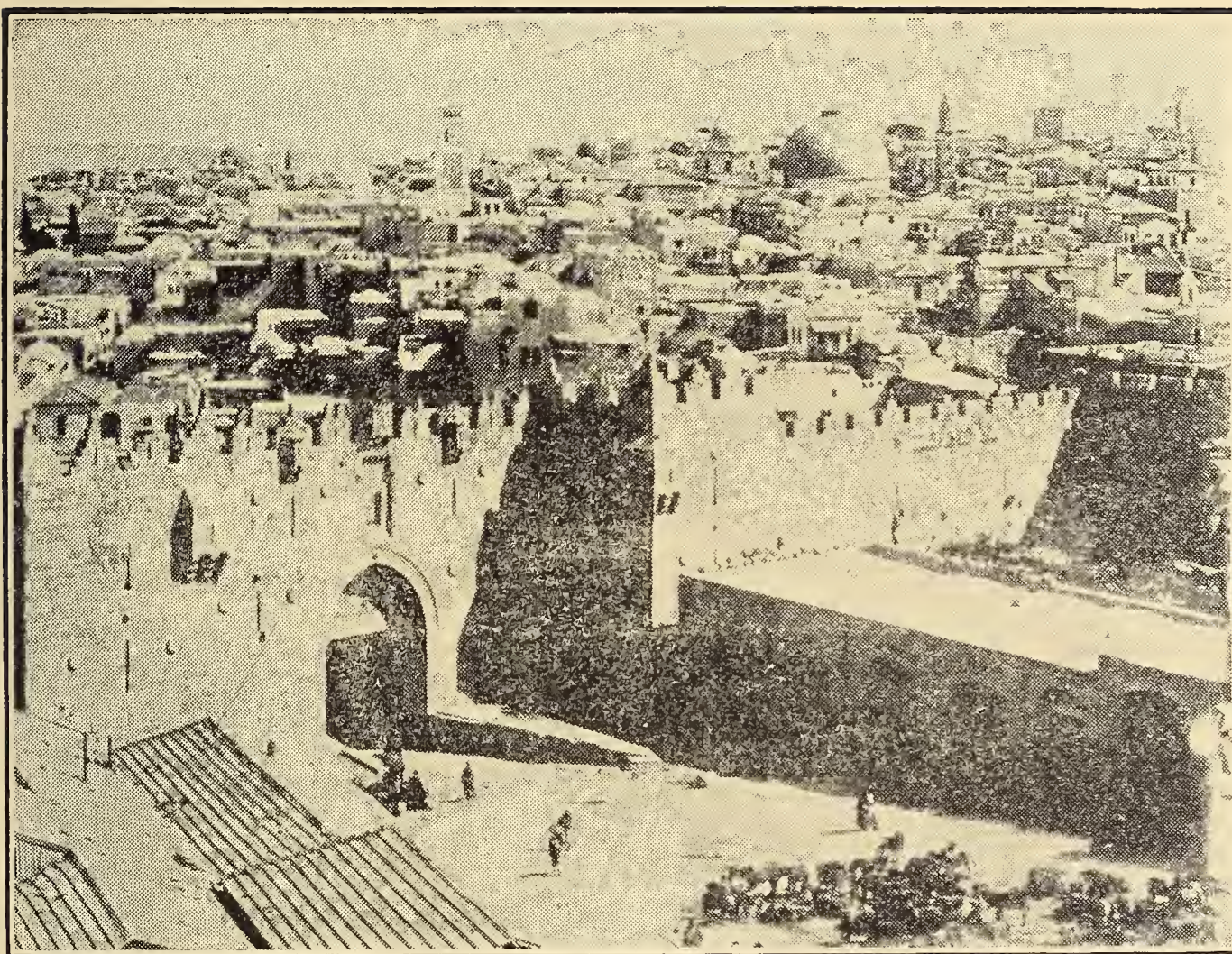
not." Two classes understood Him, the Pharisees and the women, the former because He understood them and hesitated not to expose their shams and hypocrisy, and the latter because their warm hearts felt Him and lavished their appreciative affection upon Him, sitting at His feet in rapt meditation, busy in the details of His personal comfort, breaking their alabaster boxes over His head, and wiping His feet with their flowing hair. It is significant that this anti-Jewish woman gave the first recognition of His Messiaship and became His first woman missionary, the file leader of a glorious progeny. She is an example of the double truth that theological uncertainty begets and betrays moral laxity and that often in the most sinful and unsuspected hearts there are desires, questionings, stirrings of conscience, and intense hungerings for satisfaction and for certainty. O, that the world might learn, as did she, that all it needs is Jesus, that to come face to face with Him and to recognize and accept Him fills every need and solves every problem.

The question is often asked as to why she came to this well more than a mile from her home, passing by other springs nearer by. If she came from Shechem, as some think, there was abundance of water within the city. The quality of the water of this noted well is one answer. It is soft, sparkling, and refreshing, while many of the other springs are limestone and distasteful and unwholesome. She might have been carrying water for the reapers, as is the custom today. Perhaps also some special superstition might have attached to this well. We do not know. The simplest reason is that she came for earthly water and found spiritual. That is enough.

The well is in the midst of a walled garden of three acres. Over the well is a Greek church in process of building, using the foundations of an ancient church erected by Constantine in the early part of the fourth century. A modern concrete curb extends to the water 75 feet below. There is 15 feet depth of water. The priest in charge lowered a candle and we could see the water very well. A bucket full was drawn up and we all drank. It was clear as crystal and refreshing.

One half mile north of the well is Joseph's tomb in a walled enclosure. This tomb, as above stated, is authentic. It is venerated by Jew, Samaritan, Moslem, and Christian. The Jews and Samaritans burn offerings here to





**Our First View of the Holy City.**

"We entered this, the Damascus Gate, on the north."





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Joseph's memory. He had been dead for 460 years and his mummy had been carried about for more than 40 years after the exodus from Egypt. It doubtless was a great relief to them to arrive at last at the spot of its intended burial. "And the bones of Joseph which the Children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor for an hundred pieces of silver, and it became an inheritance to the children of Joseph." Joshua 24:32. This one portion above his brethren was Jacob's dying bequest. The authenticity of this spot rests on Jewish tradition, and also on the corroborative fact that some Jews have resided on and near this spot from that day until this, even a "remnant" remained there during the captivity. My esteemed friend, Dr. Shelton of Emory University faculty, visited this spot in June, 1920, as a member of the Chicago University Archaeological Expedition. He learned reliably that German excavators in 1914 had unearthed near Joseph's tomb "a suit of armor, greaves, helmet, breastplate, shield, and mace, all Egyptian and all of pure gold." He concludes—and rightly, we believe—that it belonged to Joseph and was used by him in Pharaoh's luxurious court and brought from Egypt with his remains and with them buried here. Up to the time of Dr. Shelton's statement this interesting find had not been made public.

Thirty miles south is Jerusalem and we must be going. The road as elsewhere is macadam and being constantly repaired. It winds through a series of hills and valleys that grow more sacred as one approaches the ever Holy City. In this thirty miles, taking a strip ten miles wide, we counted more than a hundred small towns, all of them similar, and many of them possessing some ancient significance dating back to Hebrew times and possibly to the days of the Hittites and the Perizzites. The ruins of their walled cities composed of large square stones, rock-hewn tanks, broken cisterns, neglected threshing floors, old wells, gapped and eroded terraces, give evidence of a more vigorous race of industrious and skillful men. We cannot give the ancient names of these cities nor discuss more than a few of the most important of them. We come first to Shiloh (Seilun), now containing but a few huts, piles of stones on the hillside, a well and a tomb beside a big umbrella-shaped tree. Here rested the ark first after its long wilderness journey after a short stay at Gilgal, and here was set up the Tabernacle. Here danced the daughters of Israel at the Yearly Feast, and here assembled to worship the tribes of Israel coming from near and

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

from far. Here occurred that beautiful and tender nursery story of Hannah and little Samuel. Bitter in soul the devout mother came yearly with her companion but with no cooing babe on her breast or prattling son by her side. Slipping aside she knelt before the curtain of the Tabernacle and besought God for a son. Eli beheld her moving lips and heaving breast and cruelly surmised that she was intoxicated with wine. How often are burdened souls thus misunderstood! God rightly interpreted her prayer and answered it in the gift of a son who later filled an immense place in Israel's history and steered it across a very dangerous transition. This child was formally dedicated to God and accepted by Him. To Eli's custody she committed him, coming up frequently to bring the little coat and other simple necessities. And one night while he lay in his little room, perhaps in the dim light of his lamp, or more probably while the light of the moon streamed through his little window, God spoke to him thrice and called him definitely to his life work so important and eventful. Then one sad day Old Eli, sitting in the gate, heard the doom of his family, the ruin of his house, the death of his vile sons, and the capture of the Ark of the Covenant by the Philistines, and fell over dead with a broken heart and a broken neck. This was the end of Shiloh and after this it is seldom mentioned save as an example of that penalty that ever follows moral decadence and light esteem of moral standards and requirements. Ahijah the prophet dwelt here and hither came in disguise the wife of King Jeroboam to learn the doom of that sinful house. There is here one level spot 77 feet wide and 412 feet long cut in the side of the rocky hill which was very probably the site of the Tabernacle which tradition says "was a structure of low stone walls with a tent drawn over the top."

Hastening south, we pass the ruins of Bethel, very similar to the ruins of Shiloh. Like most Palestinian towns, present and ancient, Bethel was built on a hill. This custom existed for two reasons. First, for defensive purposes, and second, because of the value of the lower lands for fields and vineyards. It contains today 500 inhabitants. There are remnants of an old Greek church and a tower. Here Abraham came in his journey to Egypt from Haran and here he built an altar to which he returned years later rich and prosperous, but having engaged in some doubtful experiences, remorse for which possibly helped to guide him back to that sacred spot of tender emotions and holy associations. Here Jacob came, weary with his forty-mile tramp from Beer-sheba, having tarried at



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Beeroth, a few miles south, till the sun was set, and lighted on "a certain place." Tired, lonely, heartsick, perhaps remorseful over his complicity in the deception of blind old Isaac, he threw himself on the dry earth and pillowed his head on a stone and sank into slumber, doubtless remembering that God had here appeared to his Grandfather Abraham. As he slept God swung open the gates of heaven and a golden staircase was pushed out and downward until its base rested on two large stones by his pillow, and up and down this lambent stairway tripped the radiant angels of God. He awoke and called it El-Bethel, the House of God. When he lay down it was but a "certain place." When he arose it was "the House of God." God was there, and His presence was at once its consecration and its glory. And when after many years he returned as a rich and prosperous patriarch he must again get back to Bethel and worship. It is notable that Jacob got his vision on the very spot where his Grandfather had built an altar. His pillow might have been one of the old altar stones. Maybe this guided him to Bethel. At any rate let parents remember that high religious experiences reach further than one's immediate day and generation and carry to unborn generations some sacred benefits. Centuries later the Master gave to Nathaniel, the guileless Israelite, the real interpretation of this heavenly vision. He told him that Himself, Jesus, was the golden staircase and that His atonement linked earth to heaven and opened its possibilities and revelations to all the willing sons of men. Jeroboam prostituted Bethel to heathen worship and basest idolatry imported from Egypt. He mocked God and made a sacrilegious parody of the temple worship at Jerusalem. The curse of God fell upon Bethel and the bones of false prophets and hireling priests were exhumed and burned to ashes and scattered to the four winds of heaven. Nothing remains now of temple or palace. Altars, shady groves, and facilities of unspeakable idolatry have gone, despite the glorious appearances to Abraham and that vision to Jacob of heaven coming down and transforming the barren moorland into the House of God. Amos cries out in his righteous protest against false worship, "Seek not Bethel \* \* \* Bethel shall come to nought." Amos 5:5. The prophecy is fulfilled.

A few miles below Bethel we pass Beeroth (El-Bireh) a town of 800 people with a gushing fountain and a shady grove. It is the reputed spot where Joseph and Mary missed the child Jesus. But let us hasten on. We are within ten miles of Jerusalem. We are impatient. Letters from

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

home will be there, we are tired, and glad that tomorrow is the Sabbath—and it is the Holy City.

Next is Ramah, a town of Benjamin six miles from Jerusalem, where Ahab was killed and Jehu was proclaimed king. Two miles west of Ramah is Gibeon where Joshua commanded the sun to stand still. To the right as we pass is Neby Samwil, the ancient Mizpah, where Samuel was buried, his tomb being shown you. Here Saul was selected as Israel's first king. Many other events transpired here. It is one of the highest points of southern Palestine, being 2935 feet elevation, and so commands a grand panoramic view of the land including Jerusalem, and many thousands of pilgrims have gazed on the city for the first time from this vantage point. Here Richard Coeur de Lion, in the third Crusade 1190 A. D., first beheld it and covering his face with his hands exclaimed as he knelt, "Ah,, Lord God, I pray that I may never see thy Holy City if so be that I may not rescue it from the hands of thine enemies." He might have done so, but for some unaccountable reason he effected a compromise with Saladin by which western pilgrims might visit Jerusalem exempt from the high taxes which Saracen princes had hitherto imposed.

How our hearts swell as we too gaze upon it. Within a few minutes more "our feet shall stand within thy gates O, Jerusalem." Over our heads an airplane is sailing and on the road Fords are passing, while a caravan camel train slowly winds its weary way toward the city as it was thousands of years ago. The new and the old. They are both here. But how long one cannot predict. The wheels of modern progress are turning fast. If allowed, commercialism will modernize all institutions and remake the surface of the country. That may be best. It is the program of Zionism. Not long will the old Palestine remain. Those who would see it as it has been must hurry. Let us hope that enough of the old will remain to keep alive the spirit of reverent visitation and veneration. At least the mountains, the streams and lakes, the wells, and the tombs will remain. We are at the Damascus Gate. We would like to have our readers enter with us. But today's journey has been long and wearisome, and we trust interesting, and we shall request that you wait until next chapter to visit the Holy City. Until then, good night.

## CHAPTER VIII.

**Entering Jerusalem.**





## CHAPTER VIII.

### Entering Jerusalem.

Less than a mile north we ascend the hill Scopus overlooking the city and get the first close up and satisfactory view. For three days through the hot Syrian sun we have been working our way southward, reading and dreaming of Jerusalem as many thousands of pilgrims have done before. Now we are about to enter and the dream of years about to be realized. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, city of the Great King, the lode star of Jew, Moslem and Christian, illustrious above all earthly cities in song, story, and deed from the time of Abraham and Melchizedek to General Allenby and Sir Samuel! Within thine ancient precincts kings have reigned in splendor, and events most momentous have transpired, chief among which was that day of mockery, farcical trial, and unjust death of One branded as an impostor, but One who "lifted the gates of empires from their hinges and turned back the stream of centuries," and now rules in highest heaven over angels and principalities and powers. Jerusalem, city of David—and of Jesus. We enter the Damascus gate and pass through the Damascus street and soon reach our commodious and comfortable hotel. It is five o'clock. Dr. Rowland and I have a large, airy corner room overlooking a busy street, our beds are restful, the fare and the service fine. Here we shall spend the most memorable week of our lives. From this room we shall go out with sadness, bidding good-bye, perhaps forever, to the Holy City. The first letters received for a month since leaving home are given us, "good news in a far country" indeed. After a night of sweet rest we arise early on the Sabbath and attend High Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, visiting the service at both the Orthodox and the Armenian Chapels. The former was gorgeous and more largely attended. The vested choir sang with sincere and practiced response to the chantings of the richly robed priest who first knelt and then stood before a most gorgeous altar. Later he took a position at the side of the Chapel and the worshippers passed in file by him, taking a fragment of bread, kissing his hand, and receiving his blessing. It was very impressive—for them—and we Protestants stood in respectful silence, trying to sense through much form and unintelligible ritual phrase the real presence of Him who rose again somewhere not far away, but probably at another site.

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

At nine A. M. we attended English service at Christ Church and were proud to worship with a company of khaki-clad English soldiers. At six P. M. we attended service at St. George's, north of the walls. The sermon was likewise good and helpful but the acoustics bad, though the church itself is elegant. Nearby this church is the Bishop's house and St. George's School. There are other Protestant churches in the city, including the Christian Alliance of America, but we had but one Sabbath here and with the service yet to describe the day was too full for others.

We shall ever remember a most delightful visit by special invitation to the American Colony, located to the north, by which we passed on the preceding afternoon. This colony is like a bubbling spring underneath shady groves in a desert land. It is a little America in a Moslem world. Here are homes like our own and here the dear old United States language is spoken. This colony was founded years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jester, who still preside over its interests and direct its welfare. Mrs. Jester is indeed a strong and magnetic personality. She is the presiding genius of the American Colony. Beautiful in form, feature, and character, with a Christian smile that never comes off and a heart filled with sympathy and love to all the world's unfortunate, she has through the years moved about Jerusalem as an angel of love and mercy and is today the best loved and most influential person in the city. She was the daughter of Mr. H. G. Spaffard of Chicago, born after the following episode. He was a prominent lawyer and Christian. Mrs. Spaffard with two daughters were sailing to Europe in the interest of their education. During a violent storm the vessel was wrecked and the daughters were drowned. After a week of great suffering the mother finally reached a cable office on the French coast and sent the following message to her anxious husband who had read of the supposed loss of the ship, "Saved alone." As a result of this experience most heart breaking this great Christian layman wrote the celebrated hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul," a hymn sung around the world with ever increasing popularity. A delightful religious service of songs and prayers was held and we greatly enjoyed its beauty and simplicity. All of the one hundred who compose this colony are Christians and most of them cultured. There were a number of fine and accomplished musicians with splendid voices. The rendering of the above mentioned song was especially beautiful and impressive under the circumstances related by the daughter of the composer. We were loath to depart. During our stay we



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

met various members of this colony who were profuse in kind attentions and courtesies. It is a communistic colony. Each puts in all he has, takes out whatever is needed for self and family to live on, and all work for the common good, there being a use for every trade or profession. At least one converted Jew is a member. They are premillenarianists, expecting Christ to come the second time, while the Jews expect the first coming of the Messiah. There is a separate school for their children. The teaching is beautifully Christian. They have large business interests, chief amongst which is a department store by the Jaffa Gate which is the largest commercial house in the city. They also own much land adjacent to the city. It is hard to keep back the suspicion that commercialism plays its part in this interesting colony. However, fairness compels us to state that we believe it is subordinated to spiritual ends and sentiment. During the war conditions in Jerusalem were most deplorable and tens of thousands of the poor died of poverty and plague. In addition the wounded were brought here in great numbers. Mrs. Jester organized a relief corps and virtually all the good women of her colony gave themselves to the work of a sweet and helpful ministry. She tells us that she was binding a broken leg of a Turkish soldier when a nurse came and whispered softly that the English had entered the city. The next thing she knew she was kissing the trappings of the General's saddle and weeping like a child. She said that the rejoicing of the people of the city was unbounded. The writer well remembers the Sabbath morning when he knelt in his congregation and joined them in devout thanksgiving for this happy and significant event. For the rule of the Turk in Palestine, as everywhere else, was and is an open cancer on the world. But Palestine of all the whole world should be saved from his unspeakable dominion. This day it had happened and the world's heart was full of joy. Christian and Jew had long grieved at Infidel occupation of Gethsemane, Olivet, Calvary, and the Garden. The Kaiser had joined hands with the Sultan in holding it for Turkey, all the time slyly planning for its eventual possession by himself as holding the key to all the vast east and disjoining India and Egypt, two of England's dependencies. He built the Church of the Holy Redeemer and the Kaiserein Victoria Hospital and installed wireless and powerful searchlights on their towers in anticipation of military needs. The entrance of Allenby therefore into Jerusalem meant the breaking of Turkish misrule and oppression, as well as Teutonic, but the restoration of sacred places to Christianity. It is the

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

irony of history that he used in this capture a division of Mohammedan troops from India being transferred from France because of the severe climate.

Allenby had been steadily working up from Egypt, building railroads as he came. He also laid pipes for both oil and water. The Turks little dreamed this possible. They had received from one of their revered teachers the saying that the Turk should not be driven out of Palestine until the Nile flowed into it across the desert. Allenby actually brought the Nile waters to Palestine and thereby made possible the fulfillment of the saying. Of course the two had no connection save that of a mere coincidence. He steadily built his march northward. Dividing his troops into two divisions, he directed one toward Bethlehem and back toward the Dead Sea behind Jerusalem. The other he led northward along the Mediterranean coast route and through the plain of Esdraelon and back southward along the route we traveled and, as mentioned in Chapter VII, a bloody battle was fought near Shechem. There was stiff fighting all along the line. But finally Jerusalem was practically surrounded and on December 9, 1917, at eight A. M., after several hard-fought battles, the Turks having retired within the city, the Mayor and Chief of Police appeared with a flag of truce and surrendered the city. Two days later, the 11th, at noon, he entered. In closing a lengthy report he says in a short twelve word paragraph, "At noon on the 11th I made my official entry into Jerusalem." Never so pregnant a statement in all the past literature of war. Condensed into twelve words, this statement represents the culmination of centuries of siege and conflict. Let us hope that never again shall the sword be unsheathed in the land of the Prince of Peace. As above mentioned, his entrance was enthusiastically welcomed. Westward flocked crowds of people out of the city to greet the conquerors. Armenians, Greeks, Mohammedans cried "Bravo," "Hurrah," and old men wept for joy while from the walls showers of flowers fell upon their heads. Allenby entered on foot. How different from that pompous cavalcade led by the Kaiser William in 1898. Then no gate in the city was worthy for his imperial personage to enter and a special gate was cut through the wall by the side of the Jaffa Gate. His Imperial Highness passed through on his prancing charger bedecked in richest trappings. The lordly rider, covered with his official insignia and decorations, looking neither to the right nor the left, marched in state into the city of the Great King.



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

General Allenby said that he was not worthy to ride into the city where the sacred feet of the King so often walked and he dismounted and with uncovered head walked humbly into the city and into the hearts of the world's millions. I wish that I could build a monument to him as high as the stars, but a higher and more enduring one will stand as long as the stars twinkle in the night, that one builded in the grateful appreciation and affections of all good men everywhere. In this connection I will mention this other fact. He gave implicit command that not a single gun was to be fired in capturing the city so that every sacred place should be preserved intact. How different from the sacrilegious conduct of the Kaiser's cohorts. They seemed to make churches their especial targets and the skeletons of cathedrals of fame and beauty now stand against the sky as silent accusers of His Majesty's martial methods. The world remembers that the Church of the Madeline in Paris was hit by a shell from the Big Bertha and more than a hundred worshippers, including women and children, were dashed into eternity. And in Ypres the writer saw the remains of one of the most beautiful cathedrals of the battlefield section completely demolished. I have the following on reliable authority. The Turkish officers, inspired by German officers who had directed them all along, had mined all the sacred places. These were to be destroyed on retiring so that the English should get the blame. General Allenby knew of this and the preceding evening he called a council in his tent. The officers thought that the tactics of the capture would be discussed. Instead he called all of them to prayer and for an hour they knelt, beseeching God to spare the city from such wanton desecrative destruction. It is significant that not a mine was exploded and the Turks retired in order. One of Allenby's first commands, after reading his four language proclamation from the steps of David's Tower, was to assure the citizens that they might proceed unmolested in their regular business and that those in charge of sacred places might continue undisturbed, and that this policy would obtain all over Palestine. This wise and conciliatory policy is still in vogue. Full religious freedom to all faiths and cults was and is granted with full permission to operate schools as heretofore. All previously existing Turkish laws that are just were recognized. By way of further contrast of Turkish and British methods I will mention that one of the last acts of the former in Jerusalem was to arrest and remove the Latin Patriarch (Head of the Roman Church) and order the deportation of the Heads of the Greek and Armenian Churches under

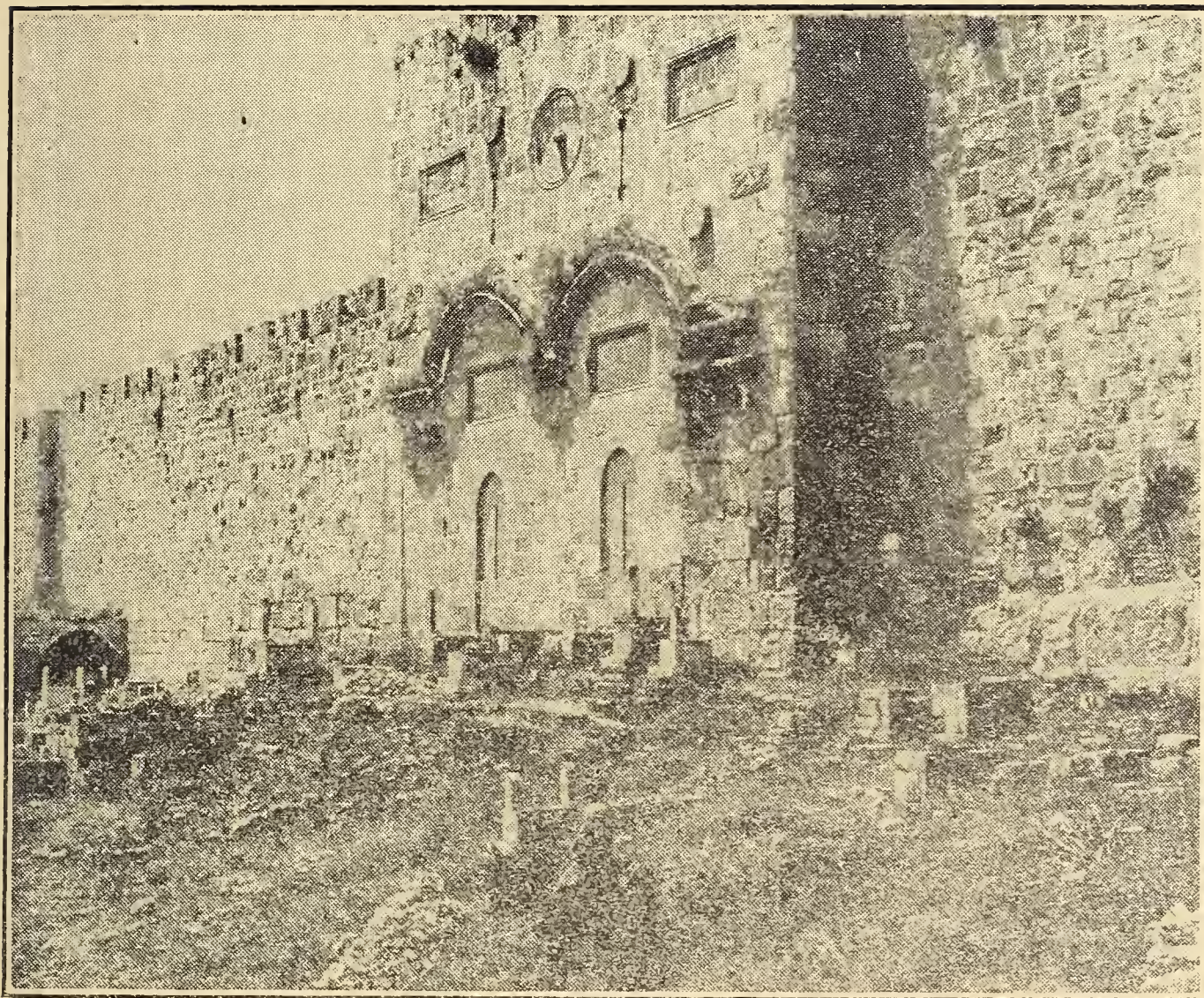


## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

guard with fixed bayonets. One of Allenby's first acts was to place a strong guard of Mohammedan troops from India, the 123rd Outram's rifles, over the Mosque of Omar. The ceremony of occupation was of the very simplest nature. The General with a guard of 150 allied soldiers all told quietly marched 200 yards inside of the Jaffa Gate, read the proclamation, religious bodies and retired. No bells from ancient belfries rang their peals held a simple conference with the Mayor, received the heads of the various of triumph, no salute jarred the walls, no shouts of victory, no hoisting of flags, and no hauling down of flags, for there were none. Allenby's action here shows him to be not only a great Christian, but a master strategist. This act of diplomacy is only paralleled by General Grant's suggestion to General Lee at Appomattox that the defeated Confederate soldiers should take their horses home with them to cultivate the neglected fields, and also his chivalrous return of Lee's sword.

"Jerusalem is a city that is compact together," says the Psalmist. It was true in his day and it is true in ours. There are probably 80,000 people within the city and 20,000 without. These 80,000 live in an area 2,600 feet from north to south and 2,400 feet from east to west. They are crowded into congested districts, called "quarters." There are four, the Jewish, the Moslem, the Christian, and the Armenian. The Jews predominate, there being perhaps 50,000 in the city, but elsewhere the Syrians are far in the majority. As a rule Syrians are Mohammedans. The "New Jerusalem" is outside the walls to the north and west. It is comparatively recent. Formerly marauding bands of Bedouins coming from across the Jordan made it unsafe to sleep without the walls. Now it is as safe outside as inside and future developments will continue in that direction. The walls will remain as relics of the past but will never be rebuilt. A new day in Palestine has dawned and whether Zionism is realized or not, a modern civilization is coming and with it a strong police power to protect every honest man and legitimate industry. The walls as they now stand, allowing for repairs, were built by Sultan Suleiman in 1542, being built on previous foundations, some of them dating back to the days of King David, notably the Wailing Place, about which more will be said. The walls are ten feet thick and average forty feet high, some points being higher than others owing to the unlevel ground. The stones are large and held gates, the chief of which are the Damascus on the north, the Jaffa together by their own weight, mortar not being used. There are eight





The Golden Gate on the East.

“Through this gate the Master went back and forth and by it lay the lame man healed by Peter and John”







## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

on the west, the Zion on the south, and the Golden Gate on the east. The others are important but smaller. The Golden Gate has long been closed and Moslem tradition says it will remain sealed up until some ruler enters it and conquers the city. Hence it is jealously guarded, or has been. This gate is that through which the Master went back and forth from the city to Olivet, Gethsemane, and Bethany. It was called the Beautiful Gate (See photo.) Through it He came on His Triumphant Entrance. By it lay the impotent man healed by Peter and John. St. Stephen's Gate just to the north of the Golden Gate takes its place for travel. They offered to open it for Allenby but he declined. The Damascus Gate was that through which He was doubtless led away to be Crucified and through which He went in traveling to and from Jerusalem from the north country of Galilee. St. Paul went out of this gate on his way to Damascus. He went out of it a desperate persecutor of the church. When he returned by this gate he was a desperate and aggressive Christian.



## CHAPTER IX.

**Jerusalem—Mt. Zion—Church of the Holy Sepulcher.**





## CHAPTER IX.

### Jerusalem—Mt. Zion—Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Jerusalem is situated on a high mountain ridge surrounded by white limestone hills which act as natural defences against the approach of enemies. Only at the north is the city comparatively undefended and every invasion has occurred from that direction. Even there is Mount Scopus, a broad, high plateau overlooking the city. Here Titus encamped in his memorable three years' siege which ended in its destruction A. D. 70. On two sides there are deep valleys, once mountain gorges, Kedron on the east and Hinnom on the west, and these uniting on the immediate south of the city made it with its strong walls well nigh impregnable. Another ravine, now but an inconsiderable valley, the Tyropean, runs through from north to south, and at right angles to this another smaller one. These cut the city into four natural divisions called mounts. There is Mt. Zion on the southwest, Mt. Moriah on the southeast, Mt. Bezetha on the northwest, and Mt. Akra on the northeast. The first two figured largely in the ancient history of the city; the third, Bezetha, is the reputed location of the Crucifixion and Sepulchre, while the fourth is of minor consequence. Its highest point is Mt. Zion, 2550 feet above the Mediterranean and 3842 above the Dead Sea.

The houses are all of stone, the streets, save two, are but alleys running zigzag and criscross, often covered over with sleeping apartments and along the sides of which streets are congested the bazarrs which do not compare with those of Damascus. The houses of the better class are made of a number of separate apartments ranged around an open court with the cistern in the center. The floors of the common homes are of hard cement; of the better homes, beautiful white and colored tiling. The roofs are flat as of old. It is hoped, with much probability, that much of interior Jerusalem will remain as at present. However, of the 210 acres comprising it there is much that needs to be destroyed and renovated in the interest of health and sanitation.

The Jews largely predominate. In fact, most of the Jews of Palestine are congested in Jerusalem. There are more than 50000 here, many of them poor and helpless, their support being provided for by Jewish Chaluka, or charity. Many came hither to meet the coming Messiah and many to be buried in sacred soil. Most of the rest of the population are Syrians and

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therefore Moslems. However, there are a few thousand Catholics divided into sects of Greeks, Romans, Armenians, Copts, and Abyssinians. A few hundred Protestants with several churches are also here. The industries are the manufacture and sale of souvenirs, mother of pearl beads, amber necklaces, olive wood articles galore, postcards of any place in Palestine, pressed flowers, soap made from olive oil, pottery, and the merchandise of the bazarrs. Carpenter and shoe shops abound, the latter more numerous. Olive oil is exported in quantities, and leather is made from hides of numerous sheep and goats.

The word Jerusalem means "Habitation of Peace." In the days of Abraham 2000 years before Christ it was called Salem (Gen. 14:18.) Later it was captured by the Jebusites and called Jeru-Salem, the name first occurring 1500 B. C. as a Jebusite city. Joshua captured it 1445 B. C. In 1048 B. C. David occupied the stronghold of Zion as a residence and made Jerusalem his Capitol. His kingdom afterward stretched from the Euphrates to Egypt. Under Solomon it reached the zenith of its glory climaxed in the building of the Temple. In 586 B. C. after a long siege the city was taken by Nebuchadnezzar, who destroyed it and carried away its inhabitants in captivity to Babylon. In 517 B. C. they were allowed to return and to rebuild the Temple, though its grandeur did not approach that of Solomon. Sixty-two years later the walls were rebuilt. Antiochus of Syria captured and destroyed it 168 B. C. and grossly desecrated the Temple and Holy of Holies. This incited the revolt of the Maccabees, native Jews, and in 165 B. C. its independence was secured and the Temple worship restored. In 54 B. C. the Romans under Crassus conquered it. For 17 years it swung back and forth. In 37 B. C. Herod captured it and in 17 B. C. to conciliate the Jews rebuilt and enlarged the temple, perhaps excelling in magnificence that of Solomon. In 66 A. D. the Jews revolted and nearly four years later after a most severe siege the city was retaken, the temple destroyed and burned by Titus of Rome. In 131 A. D. the Roman Emperor Hadrian conquered and rebuilt the city but there was little development until the early part of the fourth century when Rome, being made Christian under Constantine, Jerusalem became a nominal Christian city. In 636 A. D. it fell to the Mohammedans. In 1099 the Crusaders took it by storm and established a Christian monarchy which remained till 1187 A. D., when the brilliant Moslem General Saladin made it a province of his Egyptian Sultancy. In 1517 the Turks incorporated it into the Ottoman Empire, where



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it remained in oppression and hardship until the 11th day of December, 1917, when the Christian General Allenby entered it with bowed head and reverent and humble spirit. What the future holds no prophet can foretell. We believe that a Christian nation will govern righteously and God's plans for Jerusalem will have a square chance to ripen under England's mandate.

The Jerusalem of today is 130 feet above that of King David's day and a hundred above that of "David's Greater Son," Jesus. This is disappointing to those literalists who would know the exact spot where any sacred event occurred and even the identical paths His holy feet sanctified. In addition religious superstition has multiplied locations of every event however trivial that the prolific imagination of the Oriental could invent. You have to sift and sift and sift. You will be able to know that the Pools, the Tombs, the Hills, including Olivet, portions of the old Temple walls, possibly Gethsemane and Gordon's Calvary at least are authentic. Others may be so. But what does it matter? It is Jerusalem, City of David and of Jesus.

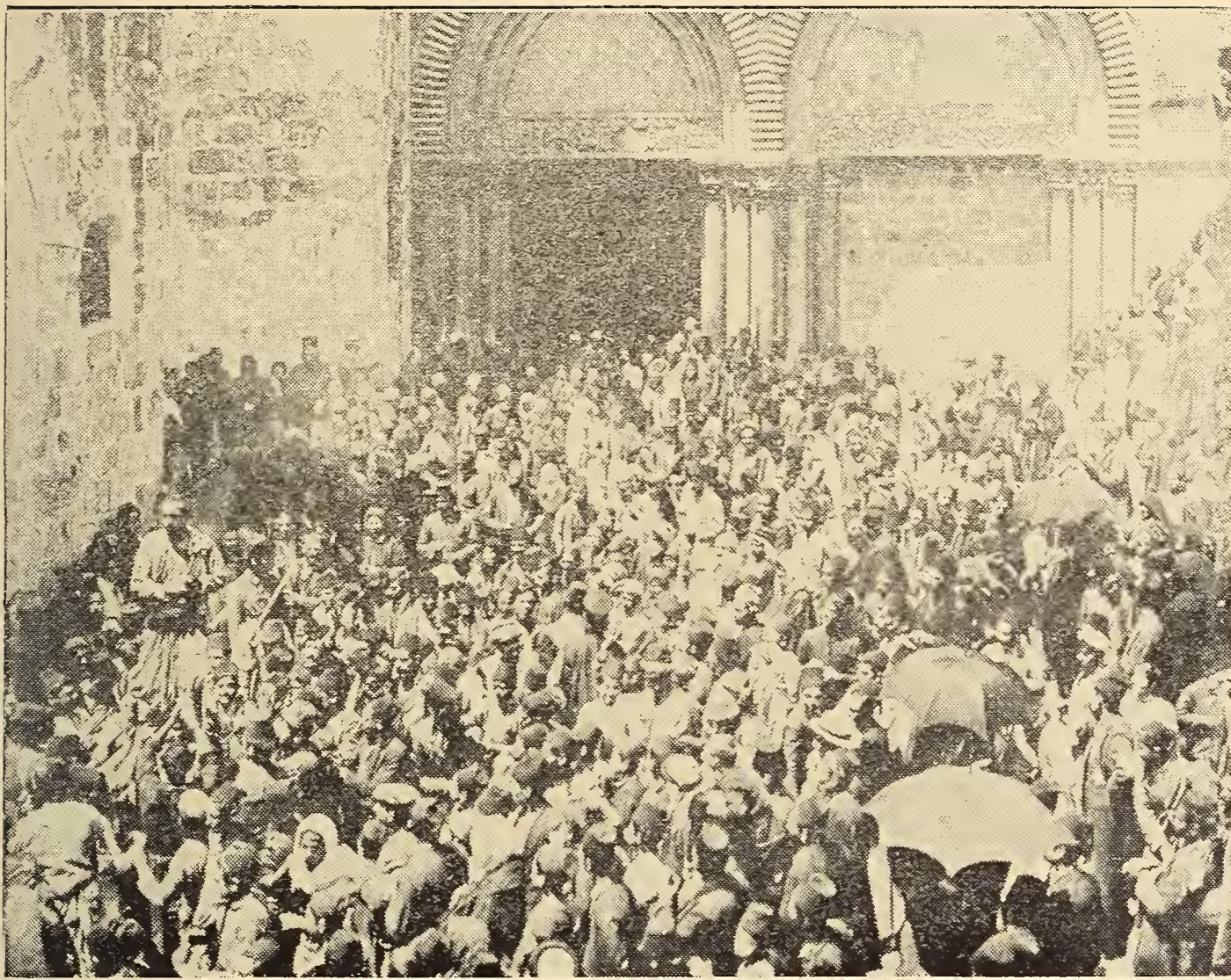
Two hundred yards inside the Jaffa Gate is the Citadel, or Tower of David. It is the most solidly built structure in the city. It dates back in its foundations to David's day and tradition says that some of its rooms were then existing and one is pointed out where he composed many of his Psalms. Another is designated as his reception room. It is a fine specimen of Jewish wall masonry. The Citadel borders the Armenian Quarter. At its base is a large open space where produce of all sorts from the country about is sold, melons and cucumbers and fruit as well as staple articles of traffic. In this Armenian Quarter are few places of special interest. There is the Church of St. James, where he is said to have been beheaded when Herod stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church, killing James with the sword. It is within the immense Armenian convent, very rich and beautifully decorated and noted for its exquisite tortoise shell ornamentation. Before this convent is a large yard and some fine pine trees. The aged gate keeper was slow in hearing our ringing of the little bell. The old priest was kind and courteous in showing us over the convent. It will contain 3000 people. Just outside the Zion gate, which is nigh this convent, is most of Mount Zion, the ancient City of David, the walls having been changed within modern times. There is the palace of Caiaphus, containing the traditional prison of Christ, the place of His trial, and Peter's denial. A pillar is shown you as the one upon which sat the cock who crowed to

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Peter's discomfort. There was a court, open but overhung with a large grape vine. One of our party innocently suggested that it was more natural that the rooster was sitting in the vine. The one is as reasonable as the other. Here you are shown the stone the angels rolled away from Christ's sepulcher, as they say. Not far south of this is a mosque called Neby David, or the Tomb of David. Various Scripture references seem to favor this location. The Tomb was in a hall or chapel and was a large sarcophagus some ten feet long and six feet high. It was covered over with soft tapestry with gold embroidery in profusion. Over it hung a canopy of a combination of loud colors. A door leads to the real tomb below. Two candles burn continuously before this door. Tradition says that in 1145 A. D. two workmen accidentally broke through the old wall into a cavern containing the tombs of David, Solomon and other kings of Judah. A stormy gust of wind blew from within and smote them to the floor, where they remained in great fear till evening when a voice commanded them to leave the place which it is presumed they failed not to do without ceremony. They had seen much gold covered furniture and chests of valuables. Reporting the find to the Patriarch of Jerusalem it was identified by him as the sepulchers of the Kings of Judah, and sealed up. One wonders what he did with the chests and the gold. One Benjamin of Tudela recites this legend. In the same building is a chapel 30 by 50 feet, the reputed "upper chamber" where Christ ate the Last Supper with His disciples and where descended later the Holy Ghost. It presents the strange sight of a Christian church in a Moslem mosque. In fact, the chapel is in two divisions separated by a screen. In one division prays the Christian, in another mumbles the Moham-medan.

Re-entering the Zion Gate and passing northward up Zion street we come to Mt. Bezetha in the northwest corner of the city. This is called the Christian Quarter. Here is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. It is an immense building, 230 feet from east to west and 200 from north to south. As Stoddard says, it is "a sacred exposition ground." In fact it is a museum of religious freaks and fancies. It was erected by the Empress Helena in 335 A. D. on the site she decided was Calvary and the Tomb of Christ. Another more tenable theory will be advanced later. More reputed events have transpired on this small spot than any one generation could imagine. It has taken the combined credulity of sixteen centuries to assemble this mosaic of religious curios. Everything of moment from the





### The Ceremony of the Holy Fire.

“A mass of waving lights fill the place and a larger multitude outside catch up the frenzy.”





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

birth of Adam to the death of Sir Philip d'Aubigny, one of the signers of the Magna Charta, is shown you. His grave is here. But a few of the many inventions can be mentioned. We first enter a large court and pass into the church past Mohammedan guards. Near the door is the Stone of Unction where Christ's body was laid for the anointing after removal from the Cross. A few feet away is Golgotha. By strange coincidence this site is the reputed grave of Adam, supposedly that the blood of the atonement might conveniently fall on the dust of the first offender. A riven rock nearby is shown you as having occurred at the time of the Crucifixion and you are allowed to thrust your arm into it. Nearby is a chapel containing three holes in the rock, two feet apart, and are the locations of the three crosses. This was found by St. Helena herself. Her way of distinguishing the true cross from the two others discovered is as original as it is interesting. They were taken singly into a room of a woman who was very ill. When that of the repentent thief was presented her suffering increased moderately. When that of the impenitent thief was brought in she went into violent paroxysms of pain. When the true cross entered she was immediately healed and left her bed praising God. Enough pieces of this cross have been sold to build a modern city and enough nails, if recast, to build the Brooklyn Bridge. Strange to say, however, we had no opportunity to purchase. Either the stock was exhausted, the factory was shut down, or the vendors were dead and their successors not appointed when we were there on two visits. In a large antechamber connected with the main Orthodox Church Chapel there is a most interesting stone or pillar. It is round and stands four feet above the floor. It is the identical spot where God grabbed up the handful of dirt out of which He made Adam. It is stated that this spot is the exact center of the earth. I could not help but believe it for my Maury's geography reliably taught me that the same claim might truthfully be made from any spot on this earthly ball and that the horizon was always the same distance away. We have found certain towns and cities in our wanderings that laid serious claims to the same distinction. Really we know a few individuals who believe their home town is that and themselves the axes on which the world revolves. Blame not the Jerusalemites. Near by the Adam factory is the tomb of Melchizedek. One wonders what became of poor Eve. We presume that she was excommunicated and debarred from burial in this sacred precinct because it was she who introduced sin into the world. Some day perhaps her grave may be

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found hard by that of her husband and a commemorative tablet affixed. Rome has canonized Joan of Arc and Savonarola, whom they killed. There is yet hope for Mother Eve. In the center of the Church is a large Rotunda, the dome of which is 65 feet in diameter and emits a flood of light upon the Holy Sepulcher which stands underneath it. This Rotunda and large Chapel belongs equally to all sects while each participating sect has a separate Chapel somewhere in the building. The Sepulcher is located within a small Chapel cut out of the rock 26 feet long, 18 feet broad, and 10 feet high. It is encased in white marble so that no part of the original rock is seen. The Sepulcher itself is a small enclosure six by seven feet containing the Sarcophagus, or Tomb of Christ. Pilgrims come in vast numbers from great distances and reverently bow and kiss the stones of the marble floor and the surface of the Tomb. At Easter time vast hordes of Russian Pilgrims assemble here for the ceremony of the Holy Fire. On Easter Eve the Fire Bishop enters this small Sepulcher enclosure. Fire descends from heaven, it is claimed, and lights the candles on the altar. The Bishop, who is alone in the Sepulcher, passes out the fire through holes in the walls. A bundle of burning candles are passed to the priests and these in turn for bakshish pass them to the multitudes of pilgrims that jam the church, each having purchased candles. In a few moments a mass of waving lights fills the place and a larger multitude without the building catch up the frenzy, and soon fifty thousand fanatics shout and weep and sometimes fight fiercely in their zeal. In 1834 the Mohammedan guards killed four hundred Christians, thinking that they wished to attack them when they were only overcome with religious frenzy.

Many other interesting locations might be discussed, but time and space forbid. These are the principal ones. In a later chapter we shall discuss another and more probable location of the Crucifixion and the Garden Tomb. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher is neither architectural nor proportionate. It seems but a growth of Chapels as occasion demanded. It has twice been partly destroyed, its latest repairing occurring in 1868. Inside it is gorgeously decorated, especially in the main Greek chapel near the Sepulcher and candles are burning all about the large altar covered with satin and velvet trimmed in gold lace and embroidery. As formerly mentioned, we attended High Mass in this Church and were impressed with its music, its elaborate ritual, and devout celebration by a large number of worshippers. The Armenian Chapel is not so elaborate or gorgeous. We



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attended High Mass there but it was not so impressive. Here they kissed the Bible instead of the hand of the priest. One mother lifted her two-year-old child to kiss the Book and receive the blessing. The tot understood how to do it if not its meaning. He will grow up a devout and fanatical defender of the faith.

This church is held jointly by the Greeks, the Romans, the Armenians, the Copts, the Syrians, and the Abyssinians, the first two being the most largely interested. Each sect takes its turn in making pilgrimages and each has a separate Chapel which is unmolested by the others. However, there have been serious disturbances by these rival sects. In the following chapter we will visit the site of Solomon's Temple and many other points of great interest.



## CHAPTER X.

**Jerusalem—The Temple Area.**





## CHAPTER X.

### Jerusalem—The Temple Area.

The most authentic, as well as the most ancient and interesting site in Jerusalem, interesting to Jew, Christian, and Moslem, is the Temple Area, Haram-esh-Sherif, on which stands the Mosque of Omar. The whole area comprises thirty-six acres, one-sixth of the whole of the city. In the center of the Temple Area, which is a plaza with flag tiling floor, is the Dome of the Rock, miscalled the Mosque of Omar. It is not a mosque but simply a structure housing the celebrated Rock. The real mosque is that of El-Aksa nearby. This, the most celebrated rock in the world, is the center of Mount Moriah and Melchizedek is said to have sacrificed here and Abraham came to this spot for the offering up of Isaac. Under the Jebusites it was owned by Araunah, or Ornan, and used by him as a threshing floor. When the plague fell upon Israel, destroying 70,000 men from Dan to Beer-sheba because of David's sin in numbering Israel, he here appeased the wrath of the destroying angel, purchased it, and built an altar. The Ark of the Covenant was brought here from Kirjath Jearim and preparations were made for erection of the "magnificent" Temple of Solomon. In this Temple the Rock was under the Holy of Holies or Sanctum Sanctorum.

The Temple was the lineal successor of the Tabernacle of the Wilderness during that period of Israel's migratory history. The nation was now assuming a stabilized status and Jerusalem was the Capitol with David as its renowned King. A fixed center of Divine worship was a necessity whither the tribes might go up and maintain a religious and national solidarity. David therefore began to prepare such an house in keeping with the extensive grandeur of his kingdom and the majesty of Jehovah who had so richly blessed them. Because David was a man of war and blood God did not allow him to build the edifice, but only to prepare for its building by his son and successor, Solomon. Solomon followed his father's plans and after seven years of systematic labor and abundant energy the Temple was completed. It was modeled after its forerunner, the Tabernacle, its dimensions being twice as large. The timbers were furnished from the forests of Lebanon by Hiram, King of Tyre, now a confederate and the father-in-law of Solomon. They were conveyed in floats to Joppa and thence overland more than thirty miles to Jerusalem. The stones were cut out of the

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

quarries beneath the city and were shaped and sized by explicit design and under daily direction of Master Masons, and every stone fitted into its place in the building with such exact nicety that not a sound of saw, hammer, or other tool was heard as it rose in lordly grandeur above the surrounding city, and when it was completed it seemed more the work of the Supreme Architect of the Universe than of mere human hands. It would not compare in size with many of our mammoth buildings of today but in finish and in furnishings it was exquisite beyond compare. See I Kings VI and VII. In its erection were used 3 Grand Masters, 3,300 overseers who were expert Master Masons, 80,000 Fellow Craftsmen, and 70,000 common laborers called entered apprentices. The structure was completed in the month Zif, answering to our April B. C. 1008. Then the Ark was brought into the Holy of Holies and God rained fire from heaven on the sacrifice, thereby attesting His approval of the plans and their completion. Solomon, amidst great rejoicing of assembled multitudes, offered an unparalleled prayer of dedication while the people shouted Amen. It filled a great place in Israel's history but Jeroboam alienated the Ten Tribes and substituted at Bethel the worship of false Egyptian gods, and 240 years after Solomon's death the Assyrians carried off the northern tribes into captivity, 722 B. C., and 134 years later, or B. C. 588, the remaining Two Tribes were carried by Nebuched-nezzar into captivity to Babylon, destroying the Temple and taking its vessels away. Seventy years of hardship followed and then Cyrus, King of Persia, having conquered Babylon, allowed the Jews to return under Zerubabel and to rebuild the temple, 42,360 Jews with funds and necessary equipment being furnished. It was smaller and less pretentious than that of Solomon. It was destroyed by Antiochus Epiphenes 167 B. C., this apostate building a statue of Jupiter in the Holy of Holies and sacrificing a sow on the altar as a climax of his wanton blasphemy. For 150 years, or until B. C. 17, it was not restored. In that year Herod, being then King over the Jews, under Rome, and being anxious to conciliate them, lavished his wealth on a new Temple that was completed A. D. 29. It was probably far more elaborately and expensively built than that of Solomon, but its decorations were not so rich or delicate in finish. The Rabbis had a saying that, "The world is like an eye. The ocean surrounding it is the white of the eye; its black is the world itself, the pupil is Jerusalem." But central in their devotion stood the Temple Mount. Terrace above terrace its courts arose, till high above the city within the enclosure of marble cloisters, cedar roofed





The Mosque of Omar.

"A crown of crowns, infinitely sacred, infinitely beautiful."





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

and richly frescoed with gold, it glistened in the sunlight "like a mount of snow fretted with golden pinnacles." But A. D. 70 the armies of Titus, assisted by internal traitors and dissensions, sacked the city and left not one stone upon another, carrying away to Rome 97,000 prisoners and causing the death of more than a million inhabitants by war and pestilence. Jesus came and flung Himself between Jerusalem and death as its only hope. But they would not. The destruction He so graphically foretold was fulfilled in all its awful severity. Titus gave orders that the Temple should be spared, but a soldier flung a faggot into it and the Jews immediately burned it to prevent its fall to the Romans. From then till 133 A. D. not a building stood within the city that had been. Jackals and foxes burrowed beneath the massive stones of the Temple and howled through the lonely night, while owls chanted their weird serenade to the moon. Sixty-three years later the emperor Hadrian rebuilt the city, calling it Aelia Capitolina, or the Heavenly Capitol. No Jews were allowed to enter it, under penalty of death. He built a temple to Jupiter over the Rock Moriah and placed an equestrian statue of himself on its eastern front. In 535 A. D., after Rome became Christian, the Emperor Justinian built a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary on the site of this temple. In 637 A. D., when the Mohammedans conquered Palestine, this church was turned into a mosque, and when the Crusaders wrested it from their power it was made again into a church, and finally Saladin and his Moslem successors changed it back to the beautiful Mosque of Omar, which now adorns the crest of Mount Moriah, "a crown of crowns, infinitely sacred, infinitely beautiful." This mosque is situated in an elevated quadrangle 1,000 feet one way and 1,600 another. The building, Kubbit es Sakhra, is an octagon, each side being 56 feet, 7 inches. The outside walls are of bluish-green tiles down to the window sills, and below that with marble, once glistening white, now colored with age and dust. Burned into the tiling are quotations from the Koran. The central dome is ninety feet high and forty feet in diameter and covers the Rock. Hence the common name of the building, The Dome of the Rock. The interior is most beautifully finished in superb mosaic inlaid work. The windows emit a composite light from thousands of glass fragments that reminds one of descriptions of some oriental palace in the days of Haroun-el-Rashid. A circular corridor is within, and close to the Rock, later described, is a row of pillars taken from other buildings and some dating from Solomon's Temple, it is claimed. Another smaller row encircles the famous



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

Rock itself. This sacred stone is fifty-eight feet long and forty-four feet wide and stands five to six feet above the tiled floor. An iron paling of fine workmanship surrounds it. In addition to other traditions is that Moslem one that Mahomet ascended to heaven from this Rock. His footprint is shown you. The angel Gabriel, seeing the Rock clinging to his feet and knowing that nothing earthly should enter heaven, reached forth his hand and snatched it loose from his feet, how much skin attaching to the stone we are not told, but we constantly expected to have a chance to purchase some of this cuticle, but like the scales from Saul's eyes and the nails from the cross, the supply was exhausted. On the side of the Rock you see the prints of the angel's fingers where he seized it in this emergency. When the Shiek showing us over the place had his back turned the writer, having unusually long arms and narrow frame, edged his shoulder in between the palings and actually put his fingers in the finger prints of the angel Gabriel. He later stretched out in the tomb of a king and secured a left hind foot of a rabbit from the banks of the Jordan. Such rare privileges come to but few. Near this Rock is a casket containing four hairs from Mahomet's beard. These hairs will be stretched across the Kedron valley on the dreadful Day of Judgment. Mahomet will sit on the wall near the Golden Gate (a jutting stone high up on the wall being pointed out to you as Mahomet's seat for that august event), while Jesus will sit on the Mount of Olivet, supposedly on a minaret we ascended to view the city, and each will hold an end of the hair of the prophet. The Kedron underneath will then be a raging torrent of flame. Good Moslems will come first and will be able to cross without difficulty. Jews come next, will try to cross and failing will call upon Moses for help. He will answer that he cannot do so and they will be swept away. Next will come the Christians who will fail to cross and failing will call on Christ to help them. He will answer as did Moses. Then unfaithful Moslems will come up and call upon Moses and upon Christ, neither of whom can help. They will then call upon Mahomet, who will mercifully turn them into fleas and himself into a wooly ram. He will command them to jump into his wool, and will run with them on the hair across the fiery torrent. Note that he runs across on the hair he is holding. This is Mohammedan theology. The only commendable point about it is that they all have to cross over to the side where Christ holds His end of the hair, an unconscious concession. You are shown also in the mosque a small square of green marble having nineteen holes, fifteen empty and four with

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

nails in them. Originally Mahomet drove a nail in each hole and one drops out each hundred years and when the last one is out will come the end of the world and the above judgment episode. The devil slipped in and pulled out the fifteen missing nails and was only prevented from getting all of them and thus precipitating long ago that awful event by the timely appearance of Gabriel. Blessings on Gabriel. He always comes up just at the right time. This mosque is second only in importance in the Moslem world to that of Mecca because, as they claim, of its association with Moses and Jesus. This is the first intimation we have received that Moses was ever here. We had always thought that he died, or was spirited away by angels from the Moabite mountains, and was not allowed to enter the Holy Land of Promise. An underground channel is reputed to connect Mecca with this mosque and as proof of it a certain beggar dropped a cocoanut bowl in which he collected bakshish down the sacred well at Mecca. It was found at Job's well near the walls of Jerusalem and carried to the mosque and hung up. The beggar later saw and identified it. Q. E. D.

Near by the Dome of the Rock is the real Mosque El-Aksa. It was formerly a church and is a beautiful building. On the window bars hang old shredded rags, each a token of some vow fulfilled. In it are two pillars about ten inches apart. Whoever can squeeze through will enter Paradise and also prove his legitimate birth. Many have tried to make the squeeze and the stone is worn away, but few have succeeded, for which reason the reader may infer. One individual killed himself in the effort and it is now prohibited by law and enclosed with iron bars. We found a similar instance in the Mosque of Amer in Cairo. In this Mosque El-Atsa is the Well of the Leaf. Mahomet promised that one of his faithful followers should enter heaven before death. A certain Sheik dropped his bucket into this well or cistern. Descending after it a door opened for him leading out into a most beautiful garden. He wandered about for a while and plucking a leaf returned. The leaf never withered and the door has never been found. But Moslems regard this well as one of the gates of Paradise.

The Stables of Solomon are under the southeast corner of the temple area and are said to have housed a thousand of his horses. The chiseled holes in the corners of the square upholding columns were for tying the halters. On the north side of the city are the quarries whence came the rock for the building of the temple and for many successive buildings. It is



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

an immense cave reaching far back under the city. It is not at all safe for one to visit here without a competent guide. Enough stone has been removed to build a modern American city. As has been stated, Jerusalem is on a limestone hill. Back within this quarry we found a square cavern with rude stations of stone on three sides, east, west, and south, but none on the north. We also saw where a large keystone had been cut from the parent rock. There is the outline as plain as day. It is supposed to have been, and we believe rightly so, the keystone of the Temple of Solomon, symbolic of that Rejected Stone that holds up the Temple of Christian fabric, keeps the dome of Nature in its place, "and guards His children well."

On the east side of the mosque is the Dome of the Chain, or David's Judgment Seat. It is a small pavilion with tessellated floor and fine small columns. The mosque is said to have been modeled after its architecture. From the middle of its dome once suspended a chain hung from heaven. When one accused of crime grasped it, if it held intact, he was innocent. If a link broke, he was lying and therefore guilty. The following incident is related of the last time it was used. A Mohammedan wished to make his pilgrimage to Mecca and entrusted his bag of valuables to a certain Jew to keep till his return. But the Jew declared that he had returned it to him. They were brought under the chain. The Jew handed a small package to the Moslem and asked him to hold it a moment for him and then, solemnly declaring that he had given him back his gold, grasped the chain. It did not break. He reached out his hand and received back the package, which was the original one in question. The Jew always comes out on top and the Moslem's knowledge of his innate shrewdness is one of his chief causes of such violent opposition to his coming back to Palestine. They say that he will soon own the land and control the money.

Underneath the Rock in Omar is a cave some twenty feet in diameter and six feet high. It was probably used to collect the blood of animals slain overhead in the sacrifices, as there is a hole through the Rock to this chamber. The Rock is claimed, however, by the Shiek of the Mosque to be miraculously suspended from heaven and this cave to have been the prayer chamber of Abraham, David, Solomon, Elijah, and Mahomet, the latter being too tall and when his head struck the rock overhead a hole was made. He was the original "bonehead." It was three feet across. Being similarly elongated, the writer put his head in the hole made by this famous personage. Another point scored. No other member of our party could do



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

that. Near by underneath are vast cisterns made by Solomon and kept secret by him. They contained enough water to last three years in case of siege, another evidence of his wisdom.

The question is often asked as to what became of the Ark of the Covenant. That is one of the mysteries of the ages. All conjecture is useless. It disappeared from the Temple when it was plundered by Nebuchednezzar. The Jews believe that it was concealed in some secret vault underneath the building and that it will be revealed by the Messiah when He comes. Many Christians also believe it to have been thus hidden. But no such hidden vault has been discovered, though apparently every recess underneath the city and the Temple has been explored. There was no Ark in Zerubbabel's Temple. Had it been carried to Babylon it would have been known during the seventy years' captivity. And the wise and benevolent King Cyrus would have allowed its return as the most essential element of success in the building of the Temple and reclamation of Palestine. If it was not miraculously preserved, it long since has returned to dust. If it was so preserved, no human quest will find it until God's time to bring it forth shall come.







The Wailing Place.

"He will save, He will save,  
He'll save His Israel speedily."





## CHAPTER XI.

The Wailing Place—The City's Environs.





## CHAPTER XI.

### The Wailing Place—The City's Environs.

"Lamenting the falling condition of Jerusalem and praying for the return of its former glory."

One other famous and very interesting relic within the walls remains to be visited. I refer to the Jewish Wailing Place. It is the outside southwest wall of the Temple area. Here in a little street not more than 15 feet wide can be found any afternoon now, but more especially on Fridays, numbers of devout Jews from various corners of the earth. Most of those present on the two occasions of our visit were from Algeria. Excavators have identified this section as a part of the original Temple wall. It is sixty feet to the top of the present wall built on these foundations. Jews never enter the present Temple area as it is blasphemed by the occupation of the unholy Moslem and his so-called Mosque. Until recently he could visit this sacred wall only by paying a special tax. However under British rule he is permitted to wail here to his heart's content "without money and without price."

The following is a translation of the Wailing Place hymn often used at sundown Friday, which is the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath. It with its ancient melody possibly dates back to the days of Ezra. This makes it one of the oldest musical compositions extant. The words are as follows. They are expressive of Jewish yearnings then as well as today. The translation is by Dr. Frankl, a learned Jew.

"He is great, He is good,  
He'll build His temple speedily.  
In great haste, in great haste,  
In our own day speedily.

He will save, He will save,  
He'll save His Israel speedily.  
At this time now, O Lord,  
In our own day speedily.  
Lord, save—Lord, save,  
Save thine Israel speedily.

Lord bring back, Lord bring back,  
Bring back Thy people speedily;  
O restore to their land,  
To their Salem speedily.  
Bring back to Thee, bring back to Thee,  
To their Savior, speedily."

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

There were fifty in this party we observed. Their peculiar dress with its many colors, the long bearded patriarch reading his book while others wailed weirdly in response, leaning on their arms against the wall, kissing it and beating it and weeping and wailing and praying, their bodies convulsing, while tears coursed down their faces, could not fail to impress one with their deep sincerity. Some professional wailers represent absent patrons and these show formal insincerity in their manner, but most of these are sincere, judging from appearances. They are lamenting the fallen condition of Jerusalem and praying for the return of its former glory and the coming of the Messiah. Would that they might believe that He is here building the New Jerusalem in the universal hearts of men. Nails are driven between the stones, each nail a prayer. Also written prayers are stuffed into crevices between the stones, prayers of absent ones unable to come for physical or financial reasons. The writer saw a light blue paper protruding and innocently (?) insinuated himself into the crowd and backing up against the wall fished the envelope from its hiding place. He wishes to disclaim any irreverence. He wanted this valuable souvenir and believed that God could hear the prayers just as well in America as in Jerusalem. We give here the translation made us by a learned Rabbi from the original Yiddish. The name only is omitted:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, am standing near the west wall of our temple in Jerusalem to pray in this holy place for my sick mother, \_\_\_\_\_, daughter of \_\_\_\_\_, who is sick in bed for years. May the Lord grant her a perfect healing to strengthen and preserve her alive and send her a speedy healing from heaven. Amen.

"I also pray for my friends in \_\_\_\_\_ that they may prosper in all their undertakings for their sustenance and support. May the Lord never let us be in failure of food and sustain us with honor. Amen.

"Have mercy, O Lord, upon Israel and upon Jerusalem and rebuild thy great and holy House that thy name is called upon it speedily in our days with deliverance and prosperity, blessing and salvation. Amen."

Another paragraph mentions several friends who are also praying, and one begs for "peace in his family" and two others "for the rebuilding of the Holy House in our days speedily."

This prayer is interesting in that it reveals the human heart of the Jew and his simple faith in asking for personal blessings for self and loved



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

ones. He believes in faith healing. May his prayer for his ill mother be answered. May his friends prosper. We must not allow ourselves to forget that the Jew is a human being, a brother in the flesh, and that we owe him an unshiftable obligation to treat him as such.

As Shylock's soliloquy truly puts it, "I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions—fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?" As Mr. Nahum Sokolow, a national Zionist leader, said in a great thanksgiving service for the deliverance of Palestine, held in the London Opera House, December 2, 1917, "The Jew is able to take care of himself; all he asks is brotherhood." The Anglo-Saxon has been his friend, and his only real friend. Let us not forget that he gave us our religion, our Bible, our Christ, the Christ we love and the Christ we trust he will some day adore. In a later chapter we shall probably refer again to the Wailing Place and the Zionist aspirations in Palestine. We have now visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Temple Mosque of Omar, and lastly the Wailing Place, the three shrines of the Holy City, those of Christian, Moslem and Jew.

Near St. Steven's gate, within the walls is the Church of St. Anne, built to commemorate the residence of her, the mother of the Virgin, and the birthplace of Mary, and the burial place of her father, Joachim. Here, deep under the foundations, is a pool said to be the pool of Bethesda having five porches where the impotent man was healed by Christ and in whose porches or arcades "lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the waters." It was believed that "an angel went down at a certain season and troubled the water" and the first to step into it was immediately healed. However, the Fountain of the Virgin at the southeast corner of the city wall, according to Dr. Robinson and other eminent authorities, presents the most plausible view. Here he observed the moving of the waters and this one element of the account of the miracle is vital. At one measurement it rose five inches and at another twelve. The physical explanation offered is that it is connected with its source to the north of the city by an underground siphon. The water enters and fills up a reservoir somewhere underground and when it fills the supply empties



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

at once and some time must elapse until it discharges again. This may, and probably does, explain the troubling of the water, but the healing of this impotent individual was a divine miracle. However, the explanation of the angel troubling the water is omitted in the best manuscripts.

We shall never forget a donkey ride around the walls. The Palestine donkey is a remarkable little creature. Blessings on him. If the rest of us did as much in proportion to size and opportunity as the brave little donkey, our fortunes would be greatly improved and the world much bettered. He has never received the recognition and praise he so richly merits. Living on the scantiest fare, enduring overloading, punishment, and excessive hardships, he picks his nimble way along with ever faithful and unresisting tread. Often his burden covers his little form, only his head and feet in evidence. On the top of this load sits complacently his lord and master. Mr. G. K. Chesterton, in his characteristic style, delivers himself of a diatribe against this other little donkey who is too far away to bray back at him. He calls him an "anarchist," demolishing fences, kicking his friends, and making himself a general nuisance. I do not believe it. All the donkeys we met, that is the four-footed ones, were sociable, clever, dependable creatures. One lady at the dining table at Damascus remarked that she wished that she might take a little donkey home with her. A companion laconically asked, "What's the use?" The implication was as rude and ungallant as it was laconic. However, the laugh was general and hearty. Each of our donkeys on this ride possessed some distinguished name; the same with our camels at the pyramids later. Mine was Moses, and his patience, meekness, and plodding persistence did not belie the qualities of the great Leader. Each separate donky had a driver who punched him along at a jog trot often uncomfortable to the rider, but words of remonstrance seemed useless. The saddles are large fat pads that cover the back of the donkey and the rider sits back over the hips. Leaving the Jaffa Gate and going southward down the Valley of Hinnom and on the Bethlehem road we come first to the Hill of Evil Counsel to our southern right. Here Judas agreed to betray his Master, and just to the north is the Field of Blood, where the traitor ended his sad career. A little further southeast where Hinnom and Kedron meet is Job's well, or En-Rogel. Here Adonijah celebrated his coronation as king, and also Jonathan and Ahimaaz hid here receiving intelligence of Absalom's rebellious movements against King David and reporting to him. A lad detected them and informed Absalom and this in-



Gordon's Calvary.

"A green hill far away without a city wall."





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

telligence squad hid themselves in a well in Bahurim. This Job's well is 125 feet deep and overflows after a rain. Going up the Tyropean, or Kedron Valley, we pass to the left the dirty village of Silwan, Siloam, and its Pool of Siloam. A double flight of steps leads down to the water. Women are washing garments in it and wading about, notwithstanding that its supplies are used constantly for drinking. Others are bearing away filled waterpots, all the company conversing excitedly about the simple routine happenings of their little village. It has been fully established that this Pool of Siloam is connected with the Fountain of the Virgin described above as the probable place of healing. The water rises intermittently here also. Furthermore the celebrated Siloam inscription fully proves this fact. It is a most interesting account. This inscription was found on the walls of the connecting tunnel 1,760 feet long by a boy who crawled into it from its lower side in 1880. The next year an accurate impression was made and translated. It recites that the tunnel began at each end at the same time; that the tunnelers heard each other's picks and thus guided were only a few feet apart when they broke through. Dr. Robinson, the celebrated and scholarly explorer, crawled through the whole length of the tunnel. From this pool came the water for the feast of the Tabernacles brought in a golden bowl. Christ referred to this in John VII:37 when He stood in the Temple and cried, "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink."

We are now opposite the Temple Area. On the hill one-half mile out is Olivet, and between that and us is Gethsemane, both of which we will later discuss. Near us now are three square rock mausoleums, the Tombs of Absalom, St. James, and Zachariah. Near these tombs is the Jewish cemetery. From time immemorial Jews have been interred here. Large numbers from all over the world gather about the Holy City as the sunset of life approaches so that they may be gathered to their fathers and buried in sacred soil. Our outgoing vessel contained several such pilgrims. One fine old patriarch with long white beard was so tenderly attentive to his little old wife who was ill and fearful lest she should die before reaching the homeland. They stayed together and the old gentleman continually read aloud to the wife the Old Testament prophecies and promises in his own tongue. This aged couple won our affectionate esteem. We never saw them again, but we saw a certain Rabbi again at Tiberius. The Jews believe that the Judgment will occur on Olivet, that the hill will be split in twain and those nearest the spot in rising will have a decided advantage. Passing around

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

to the north and by the Damascus gate and Calvary we come to the Tomb of the Judges, a deep catacomb with rock-hewn vaults sufficient to accommodate many bodies. One-fourth mile northwest is a similar burial place of the Kings of Israel. We crawled into these vaults and found them all clean and empty. We stretched our frame in one of them. In these rock shelves there was not room for a coffin and hence the bodies were wrapped in linen after anointing.

Two hundred yards north and east of the Damascus Gate is Gordon's Calvary, named for General Charles George Gordon, who spent several years studying the question here from every angle. However, Otto Thenius in 1849 was the pioneer in this theory that has become accepted by such a large number in latter years. It is elevated sufficiently above the city to be seen afar off. It is beside the main road to Nablus and to Damascus and it is called "The Skull Hill" from its peculiar resemblance to a skull. It is rounded like one and has two openings in the face resembling eye holes and below, the outline of a mouth. It fulfills the scriptural account. It surely was "without the gate" of the city, which cannot be said as to the St. Helena site in the Church of the Sepulcher. The top of this hill is covered by Moslem graves and a depression is filled with bones. It is the traditional place for execution of criminals. At its base is a small garden owned and kept by a London lady of wealth. Here is a tomb discovered by excavation and is doubtless the "new made tomb wherein never man was laid" but in which lay the Crucified One, and from which He came forth on that glad Easter morn long ago with the tread of a conqueror over the dark domain of death, a victory in which you and I may glory. Adjoining the Calvary site is the Grotto of Jeremiah, considered by some as Christ's tomb. It is a natural limestone cave facing south, and a fourteenth century tradition affirms that the prophet wrote his lamentations here and it became his burial place. It is full of rocky tombs, empty cisterns, etc.

All these locations in the environs of the city we inspected on the memorable donkey ride. It now remains for giving account of a most happy hour at its close. Our readers will recall that in the opening chapter we presented our genial and accommodating dragoman, George Jallouk, of Jerusalem. This afternoon we were received by his good family and other relatives in his refined Christian home. Oriental hospitality refined by Christianity characterized the occasion. How beautifully welcome they



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

made us feel. We sat in a large veranda over which grew a lovely grape vine laden with tempting bunches. The Jallouk family are highly esteemed in Jerusalem as well as wherever known. They are all Protestant Christians and descendants of the Samaritans. If Christian missions had done nothing more in Palestine than the blessings conferred on this honored family it was time, effort, and money well spent. But it has done vastly more. There are many similar Christian homes in Palestine, each home a silent and most potent missionary for the Christ born in Bethlehem but destined to set free the world. However, there are 800,000 Syrians in the Holy Land and Moslemism has its benighting grip upon them. They know nothing else. But of all people we met the Syrians present the finest soil for the sowing of the gospel seed. They are a noble and stalwart people and have great inherent qualities. All they need is Christianity. Even all the trees have perished since Islam reigned in Palestine. The ancient terraces have washed from the fruitful mountain side and the people themselves have partaken far more than the soil of the blighting effect of Mohammed, the touch of





## CHAPTER XII.

Gethsemane—Olivet—Jerusalem to Jericho.







The Big Tree in Gethsemane.

“His sweat like drops of blood ran down,  
In agony He prayed.”





## CHAPTER XII.

### Gethsemane—Olivet—Jerusalem to Jericho.

Leaving the city by the Damascus Gate and circling eastward we soon pass the palatial German Hospice built supposedly for the summer home of the Kron Prince, but built as an advance preparation for German occupation of Palestine and containing wireless apparatus and a powerful searchlight. It was interiorly decorated with German art ideals and the Christ was represented as the Kaiser, and St. Paul wore a big waxed German moustache. It stands out today as the finest building in or about the city. It is the irony of history that it is now occupied by Sir Samuel, the Governor-General, and above it flies the Union Jack. Soon we enter the road leading east from Stephen's Gate down across the Kidron vale and just on the farther incline we come to the Church of the Franciscans and adjoining it and cared for by its Fathers, the beautiful little three-quarter acre Garden of Gethsemane. It is surrounded by a modern wall and iron paling fence. Concrete walkways cross and recross it, between which are varieties of foliage beautiful and odorous. But the chief objects of interest are eight age-old olive trees, all similar to that appearing in the accompanying picture, which is the reputed senior of them all and the identical tree under which prayed the Master for the passing of the cup while the cold ground below caught the vermillion drops that exuded from His pores, pressed out by such mental anguish as never mere mortal felt. The olive lives to a ripe old age and these have been well cared for within the memory of man, but two thousands years and more, for they were supposed to be big trees then, is a long time. Its traditional age is doubtful and so is the exact spot here represented as the garden. It is rather too near the roadside and the gate. The account says that He went still farther away, perhaps up the slopes of Olivet, and fell on His face and prayed. However, this site dates back to the fourth century. At any rate Gethsemane is hereabout and His pleading accents might have been audible from the location of this tree. Here broke His heart as the pressure of the lost world bore down upon it. Some eminent medical authorities are of the decided opinion that here the pericardium was ruptured and that slow leakage began which finally hastened His death in advance of the thieves, the final moment of which death called out such an agonizing shriek of pain. The blood had already coagulated. It is re-



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

called that there came out both water and blood from His pierced side. Never man suffered as did Jesus. Mental anguish inexpressible would have killed Him; the agonies of the cross likewise would have ended in death, but the two combined lifts His vicarious sacrifice to a pinnacle far to itself in appealing significance and pathos. One's capacity to suffer is proportionate to his degree of refinement. In Him the refinement of God was blended with the inherent refinement of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hence He could and did suffer as none other ever did. It was all for us.

“Into the woods my Master went,  
Clean for-spent, for-spent;  
Into the woods my Master came,  
For-spent with love and shame.  
But the olives they were not blind to Him,  
The little gray leaves were kind to Him,  
The thorn tree had a mind to Him,  
When into the woods He came.

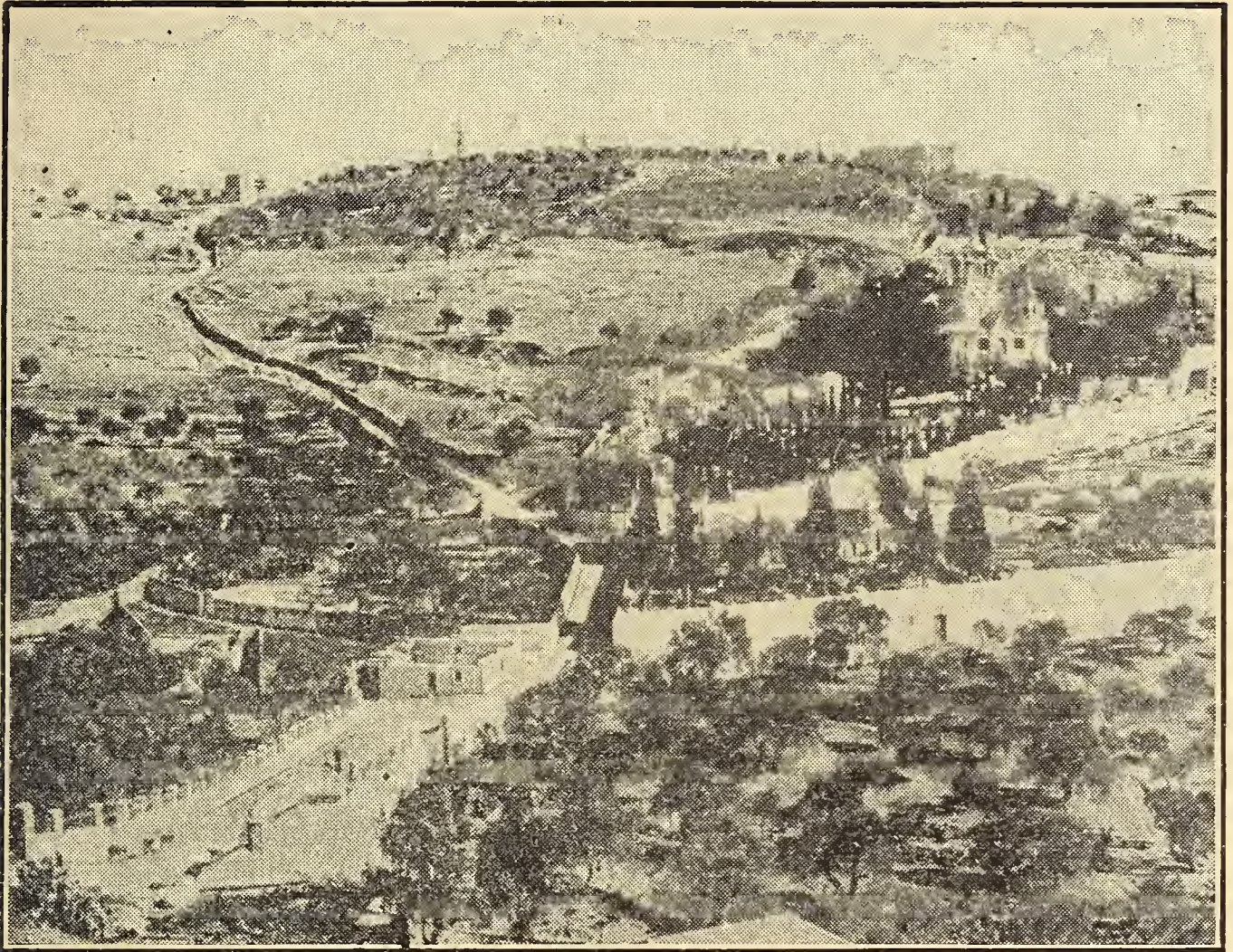
“Out of the woods my Master went,  
And He was well content;  
Out of the woods my Master came,  
Content with death and shame.  
When death and shame would woo Him last,  
From under the trees they drew Him last,  
'Twas on a tree they slew Him last  
When out of the woods He came.”

(Sidney Lanier.)

Across the road from the garden are shown you the tombs of both Joseph and Mary. Over the spot is a church built by Queen Millicent in 1161, and here she is buried. A flight of forty-seven steps descends to the chapel.

Mount Olivet, so called from the large groves of olive trees that once covered it, is the highest point round about Jerusalem, being 2,680 feet above the sea level and 130 above Mount Zion, the most elevated spot in the city proper. It is due east and 300 feet above Gethsemane, and also due east of the Golden Gate and therefore of the Temple Area. Much history has transpired here. Ezekiel's vision occurred here and across it fled David from his son, Absalom. Solomon built the high places for his many





Mt. Olivet—Gethsemane in Background.

“While they beheld He was taken up, and a cloud recieved Him out of their sight.”





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

wives to worship their gods here, and here the Jews, having returned from captivity, celebrated the Feast of the Tabernacles. Jesus often visited it. He was descending its slopes when the multitude met Him waving palms and strewing their garments in His way and crying "Hosanna." Here He predicted the city's overthrow, and here He retired after His last Passover. The Mohammedans claim its apex as the place of the Ascension and have a mosque to commemorate that event. In a small octagonal pavilion is a stone in a frame with a small indenture in it about the size of a baby's foot. It purports to be Christ's last footprint on earth. However, further over toward Bethany is the more exact place of His ascension. This mosque has a magnificent view from its minaret which tourists may ascend. The city spreads out in finest panorama and Neby Samwil, Gibeon, Bethlehem and the Frank Mountain, and to our rear the mountains of Moab, from which Moses viewed the landscape o'er and where he disappeared. Next to you sleeping in its mountain cradle is the Dead Sea and far north from it extends the Ghor, or Jordan valley, a row of green trees like an emerald ribbon marking its winding course. To the north of this point is the Russian church with a still higher tower in which is a spiral staircase of 214 steps. The view from a platform at the top of this tower is still better than that just mentioned. In the yard of this church is a large stone said to have been intended for Solomon's Temple but discarded because of a flaw. Nearby in a small chapel is a cubical stone represented to be that from which Christ mounted the ass. To the south is the Church of the Pater Noster, or where Christ gave the Lord's Prayer, and the prayer is seen on tablets around a court written in 35 languages. A beautiful marble tomb of the French princess who erected the church is shown you.

On the southeastern slope of Olivet is Bethany, a straggling town of a few hundred people, chiefly Mohammedans. Once it was the home of three intimate friends of the Master and where the "prophet's chamber" was always ready for His occupancy. This devoted home was a green oasis of refreshment in the Sahara of recrimination and persecution. Here was always quiet and love. Lazarus the noble friend, Martha the cumbered servant who served much for love's sake, Mary the meditative who sat at His feet feasting on the joys of His companionship and the golden truths He announced—these three dwelt in Bethany, the Place of Dates. One day Lazarus was stricken and died. Jesus hastened to the sorrowful home and with the fiat of a God called back the escaped soul to the decaying

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

corpse, thereby rendering a great boon to the sisters but imposing a tremendous loss upon Lazarus. Jesus wept. He was grieving for Lazarus' sake. Four days gone had he entered into his glorious inheritance and back from its joys to this old sad earth he was calling him again. Tradition says that he was thirty years old when he died and thirty more he lived after being resurrected. The ruins of their residence are shown you and a stone cave or tomb in the side of the hill which might have been the tomb of the miracle. It was near the home and fulfills all necessary conditions.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho winds past Bethany and mounting our Ford cars we start the tortuous descent. Jerusalem is 3,842 feet above the Dead Sea. The distance is 18 miles as the crow flies or about 25 as the road winds. Think of it. More than 200 feet descent per mile. Never was roadway built over rougher country and there is no finer engineering than this. It was built for the special benefit of the Kaiser to pass over in 1898, one lone benefit of his pompous visit. It is a fine grade of macadam and apart from the heat and the great number of Bedouin camel trains it was a very fine drive. I believe that it is possible to coast from Olivet to Jericho and most of the time using the brakes. Two miles out we passed by the Apostles' Fountain, so named because they often drank there, called also the "Sunny Fountin." Half way down we passed the Khan of the Good Samaritan. It is near the location of the ancient one of the Parable, a mass of ruins on a hilltop being pointed out. But this one is like the other and is near enough to be identical for all practical purposes. It is a walled enclosure 100 feet square with chambers for sleeping and for storage ranging around an open court where slept the animals in safety after the big gate was locked. After passing down this road we can appreciate fully the conditions of the parable. A thousand jagged gorges seam this mountain region and a thousand good hiding places for robbers were at hand everywhere. In fact we met them in ones, twos, and larger numbers, riding good Arabian steeds, walking with caravan trains, or watching the sheep grazing on the rough hillsides. Soldiers paraded up and down the road constantly and guaranteed safety from their treachery. We had frequent trouble in meeting the camels in large numbers heavily laden with grain from the plains of Moab. They would not know how to get out of the narrow road and one fine fellow fell across a ditch and could not rise until relieved of his load. This is Quarantana, the country of the wilderness temptation. North and south is seen nought but a series



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

of barren limestone mountains glistening in the torrid sunlight separated by mighty chasms and deep precipices. There can be no more fitting spot on earth for a Devil to dwell. It surely is God-forsaken. It is a sad and seamy solitude, save for Marsaba. This monastery stands high up and white against the mountainside overhanging the deep ravine which was the Brook Cherith by which Elijah dwelt and where he was fed by the ravens; whether black birds or black Bedouins is immaterial. They were God's messengers to a needy servant who could find no spot in the forsaken wilds where God was not. We were all thousands of miles from home and friends, yet the thoughtfulness of God in this incident comforted our hearts with the assurance of His constant care. This road is the main highway from all the country beyond the Jordan and was such in the time of Christ. Just above the ford of the river are the pillars of a stone bridge built by the Romans. Today it is but a weak lattice-work structure resting on wooden piles and up until English occupation a toll bridge. It will soon be supplanted by a modern steel structure of beauty and permanence. Such will be in keeping with this modern roadway and the spirit of British enterprise evidenced in all her dependencies. As we descend we pass a rough pathway leading off to the right to the Neby Musa, or the traditional Moslem tomb of Moses. Pilgrims in large numbers make this point every Easter time on their way to the Jordan bathing place mentioned later. The Scriptures affirm that no man knows Moses' burial place. From Mount Pisgah some fifteen miles east beyond the Dead Sea he was permitted to behold in lucid and perhaps magnified vision all the Land of Promise which denied to him became the portion of the vast multitude whose wide encampment lay in the plain below. But despite this clear assertion of Scripture the Mohammedans know the place and have allowed him to cross over Jordan despite the divine interdiction. This tomb is a place of prayer as the Moslems accept Moses as a great and true prophet and revere his memory almost as much as Christians or Jews.

Our road winds through a gorge and comes out on a high ridge that offers a full and uninterrupted view of the Jordan valley for some miles up and the Dead Sea, or the upper part of it. To our left a few miles north is a green spot speckled with white. It is Jericho whose ancient walls stood directly in Israel's pathway of conquest. However, between it and the Jordan ford lay the ancient Gilgal, modern Tel Jeljul. Here Israel first pitched camp west of the Jordan and set up twelve stones taken from its



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

bed. Here the manna ceased and the first Passover in Canaan was celebrated as well as the rite of circumcision. Here the camp abode for some time and one night Joshua on a reconnoitering tour beheld "a man over against him with a drawn sword in his hand." It was God's angel. Later assembled there the conventions of the people under Samuel and Saul, the latter being made king here, and here the whole tribe of Judah met King David on his return from exile after Absalom's untimely death. No more beautiful incident in Scripture is recorded than this wholehearted convoy of David's tribesmen peopling the plains near the Jordan ford to welcome home their beloved king. Gilgal filled a large place in those days. Today even the very site is problematic and at best only a pile of debris marks its reputed location.

A few moments' drive from Gilgal brings us to Jericho. The city today is a row of plain rock huts separated by walls of the same material. It contains about two thousand people and a more degenerate and wretched lot we met nowhere than here. It was a contrast of present squalor with past magnificence. There was a main street with stalls for stores selling melons, tropical fruit, and simple household articles. We purchased a native banana. It was small but sweet. An uninviting hotel stood on a corner of the lane and a Greek church dating back to the 15th century marked the home of Zaccheus, it is claimed. There are three Jerichoes in history. First that destroyed by Joshua; the second, that of Herod and Cleopatra; third, that miserable village of today. The sites are also different. Joshua's Jericho was adjacent to the Fountain of Elisha, Ain-es-Sultan. We saw results of excavations recently conducted by Dr. Ernest Sellin. We stood on top of a mound fifty feet high and looked down on ancient walls thousands of years old. He found numerous ruined houses, an ancient citadel, containing three stories and 17 rooms. In three of the rooms the antique stoves were still intact and broken household articles, some of them highly decorated. He reclaimed 30 jugs, disposition of their contents being omitted in the account. Some of them were beautifully embellished. Numerous kitchen articles, and an elegant stone statue also were recovered. It confirms the Scripture account of Joshua VI. The destruction was complete, only the vessels of gold, silver, brass, and iron were reserved for the treasury of the Lord. Rahab and her kindred were spared according to the pledge of the three spies whom she prudently housed. Nothing is more majestic than this silent circuit of the doomed city six days running and the seventh

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

seven times around ending with a terrific shout of faith claiming the victory in anticipation, which claim was amply justified in the results attained. Later Joshua standing perhaps on an adjacent hill pronounced his curse upon the city, pointing to its charred ruins with index finger of imprecation and exclaiming, "Cursed be the man that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho; he shall lay the foundation in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it." Josh. 6:26. Five hundred years later, or 915 B. C., "did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho. He laid the foundation thereof in Abiram, his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son, Segub, according to the word of the Lord which he spake by Joshua, the son of Nun." I Kings 16:34. Yet it was rebuilt and became a school of the prophets, but on another site. Herod yet again rebuilt the city, strengthening and adorning it after it was redeemed from Cleopatra, on whom it had been bestowed by the infatuated Anthony. Here Herod resided in winter. He built a fortress, lordly palaces, and a great circus hippodrome in which he caused later the nobles of the land to be imprisoned under death sentence, which sentence his own awful death prevented from being executed. This was on still another site. Christ visited Jericho several times and lodged with Zaccheus and healed Bartimeus. Here lived many of the priests and Levites who went up to Jerusalem in their regular courses of temple service. One of each passed the wounded brother in merciless indifference to his appeals but thank heaven, "a certain Samaritan came that way," himself and his humane conduct so symbolic of the Great Samaritan in His healing and reclaiming attitude to a bruised and wounded world without regard to rank, race, religion, or color. Jericho is one-fourth mile below sea level, the deepest of any city on earth. It has a super-tropical climate. It was 110 degrees in the shade when we were there, so hot that our Fords would run but a short time before overheating. Right glad were we to escape and reach again our pleasant rooms at the Grand New Hotel at Jerusalem. Jericho is the gift of Elisha's Fountain, so named because of its water being cleansed by him with a treatment of salt. It bursts out from the hillside in a stream large enough to turn a small mill. A large concrete reservoir collects the water. In one apartment natives were bathing in the nude and in brazen indifference to our presence. The upper apartment was clean and the water cool and refreshing. Modern stone aqueducts convey its supplies down to the city a half mile away and into gardens rich in palm trees, oranges, lemons, bananas, figs, grapes, and

## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

vines and flowers. This garden is but a sample of what the Jordan valley once was and what it may again become under the wizardry of modern irrigation. Everything shall live whither the river cometh. The greatest need of Palestine is water. Then it shall blossom as the rose. Some day ere long it shall be so. It is the program of England and of Zionism should it prevail.

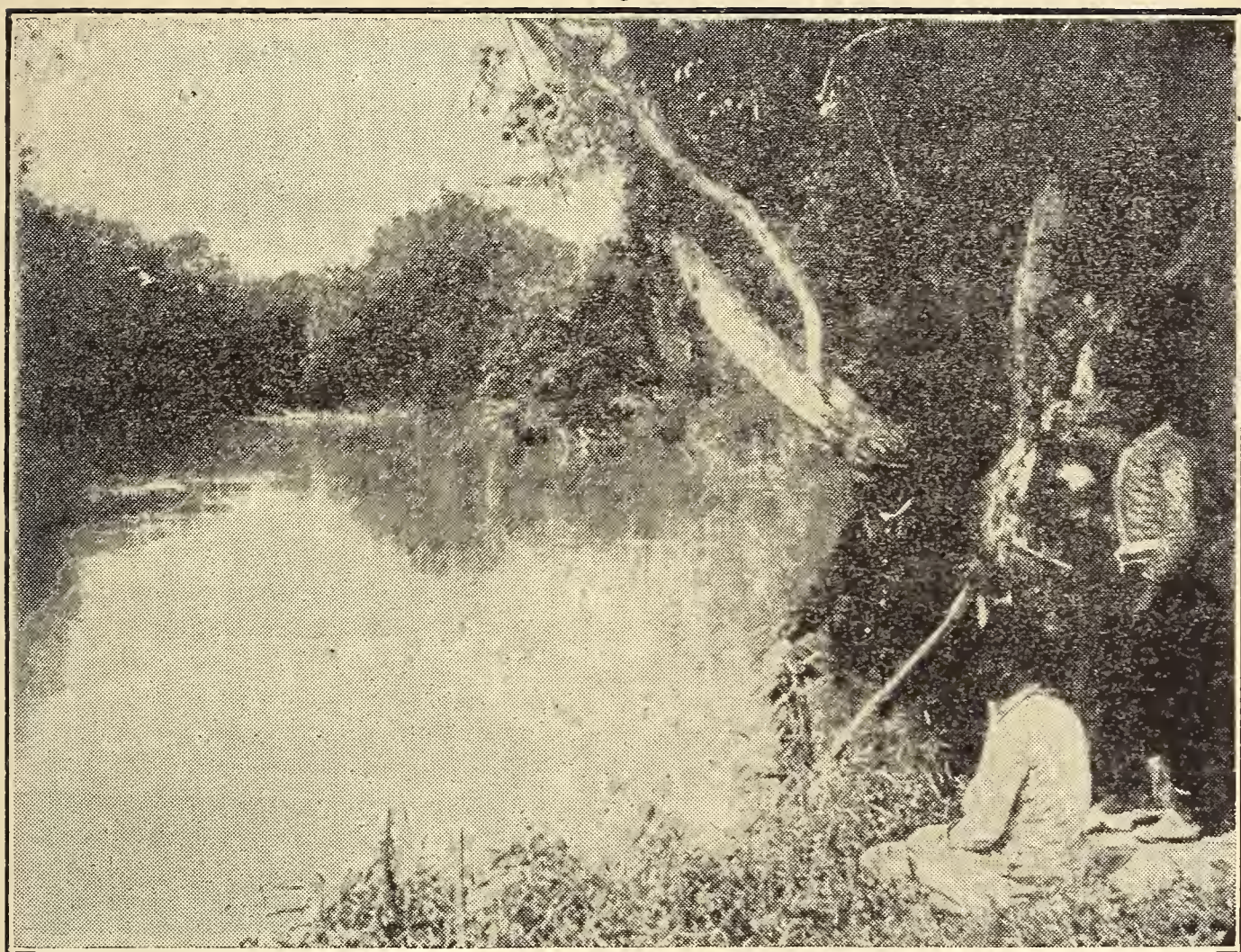


## CHAPTER XIII.

**The Jordan—The Dead Sea.**







The Jordan—Supposed Site of Christ's Baptism.

"The Jordan valley is the lowest depression on earth and the earth's deepest ditch."





## CHAPTER XIII.

### The Jordan—The Dead Sea.

The Jordan River is the most celebrated stream in the wide world. This is not because of its size, for it is less than 200 miles long, including its windings, but little more than 100 feet wide normally near its mouth, and from six to ten feet deep. It surpasses in interest the Nile itself, which made Egypt, the Hudson, the Mississippi, the Amazon and the Danube. Its interest is both historic and symbolic. It marks the ending of Israel's wanderings as a horde and the beginning of their history as an organized nation, the induction of the Savior of men into His priestly office, and the inauguration of His kingdom on earth. It is sacred to Jew, Moslem, and Christian. It is mentioned 180 times in the Old Testament and 15 times in the New. The earliest is in Gen. 13:10, where Lot is said to have "lifted up his eyes and beheld all the plain of the Jordan that it was well watered everywhere even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt" from which he and Abraham had just come. Hence the comparison. The valley at that time must have been exceedingly fertile and productive, containing several flourishing cities, including Sodom and Gomorrah, where now is the Dead Sea. It was later crossed by the Children of Israel under Joshua to begin the conquest of the land. Many others crossed it here and there, including David in his flight from Jerusalem during Absalom's rebellion and his return after his sad death. Here a ferry-boat was used, the only mention of such in Scripture. Naaman dipped in its waters and was healed of his leprosy. Elijah had previously crossed it, its waters dividing the second time miraculously. These are but a few of the many Old Testament references.

In the New Testament the chief incidents are the baptizing of the multitudes by John, including that of Jesus.

It rises in the Anti-Lebanon mountains at the base of Mt. Hermon 1,700 feet above sea level and empties into the Dead Sea 100 miles straight due south 1,300 feet below sea level, falling therefore 30 feet per mile. One is not surprised to find that Lieutenant Lynch in 1848 discovered 27 rapids plus several minor ones and that one of his boats was wrecked. It originates in four principal springs and 28 miles away enters into the waters of Merom, now Lake Huleh, a beautiful little triangular lake at sea level. Thence 12

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miles later it enters and passes through the Sea of Galilee, 682 feet below sea level, its waters entering turbid and leaving it as clear as crystal. Thence for 60 miles direct but 180 miles in reality it plunges to the Dead Sea, its winding course overcoming its excessive fall. Opposite Jericho are the Fords of the Jordan, and tradition identifies this as the place of Christ's baptism. Here every Easter in commemoration of that event great congregations of Pilgrims, mostly from Russia, assemble and dip in its muddy waters. Old and young, rich and poor, plunge promiscuously into its current, which here flows three miles per hour. It must indeed present a most picturesque sight; hundreds of candidates in snow white garments—their future burial robes—all kneeling on the banks while a patriarchal priest in a boat immerses a cross three times with much ceremony. Then a nude native dives from the boat and at this signal the multitude move quickly into the stream, immerse themselves, and retire for others to take their places. Sometimes it is very cold and the ceremony is attended with suffering and after effects. Arroco, a vile native intoxicant, is sold and often fights occur and occasionally deaths.

The Jordan Valley is the lowest depression in the earth, the earth's deepest ditch. The whole Ghor from Huleh to the southern end of the Dead Sea is a geological split supposedly occurring somewhere near the time of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It has the greatest fall of any stream in the world, that is from its source to its entrance to the Dead Sea, 3,000 feet in 100 straight miles, or 30 feet average per mile. The Sacramento river in California is a close second. This great fall and the abundance and dependability of the current with a superabundance in winter and early spring at the "swellings of the Jordan," which could be impounded, suggest great possibilities for electric and irrigation developments. In fact the English government has already let concessions for utilization of the basins of the Jordan and tributaries for generation of 400,000 horse power, reliably estimated—an equivalent of 3,500,000 tons of coal. The lessor is Pinhas Rutenberg, a well known hydraulic engineer, and the lease runs for 70 years. He has preempted the ground, has "pulled off" a gigantic financial coup, both feasible and possible. In fact wealthy Jews everywhere eagerly seized the offerings of stock bearing a guarantee by the government of 8%. But more of this later. The Jordan has two plains, or beds, one the wide valley, the other a deeper and more narrow one within. The river overflows into this latter bed during the spring freshet. At such a time the Israelites



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crossed it. Its banks are covered with sycamore, ilex, willows, reeds and rushes, a dense half tropical jungle. It was once the home of dangerous lions, leopards and other wild beasts, but there are none now. Wandering and treacherous gangs of Bedouins people the whole valley. At the ford we came on a rude thatched hut, double story, owned by a Syrian with a Greek wife. A boat was rented for a row on the stream; coffee made over a "fire of coals" was served, with roasted fresh water clams seasoned with Dead Sea salt. The large head of a catfish caught on the "trot line" in the stream hung on a nail along side the dried hind feet of a Jordan hare entrapped in the rushes on the bank. We saw no birds. We were there in August. But others have mentioned many varieties of birds up and down the valley. There are the dove, raven, owl, stork, heron, wild goose, snipe, quail, grouse, hoopoo, king fisher, bulbul, thrush, and every kind of bird of prey. It has been said that nearly every variety of bird in Europe or America is found somewhere on the banks of the Jordan, and also, owing to the various elevations, all varieties of vegetation from that of the mountains of Norway to the torrid belt of Africa.

The Jordan has three distinctions. First, it has the world's greatest fall; second, it is the world's deepest ditch, both discussed above; third, its bed has changed less during the centuries than perhaps any other; fourth, it discharges its waters into a lake without outlet. Evaporation equals the intake, owing to the extreme heat and the basin-like shape of the sea.

This Dead Sea remains for discussion. In Scripture it is called the East Sea, Sea of Sodom, Sea of the Desert, and Salt Sea. Josephus and the classical writers refer to it as the Sea of Asphaltites, because of the excessive abundance of asphalt in its region. The Arabs call it Bahr-Lut, the Sea of Lot. In April-May, 1848, Lieutenant Lynch of the American Expedition made exhaustive exploration of the whole valley including the Dead Sea, to which he gave very careful examination. To him we are greatly indebted. He describes the water as a greenish-blue, often rippled and sometimes powerfully stirred by storms, and owing to its density the waves struck with terrific force against the sides of the boats. It is nearly one-fourth mineral, five per cent being salt, with much magnesia, lime, and soda. Once it was a vast salt plain stretching from the Gulf of Akabah, the eastern arm of the Red Sea, to Mt. Hermon. Through it ran the Jordan at an elevation above the present. The Sea was then a smaller lake about the

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size of Galilee. It was salt and surrounded with deposits of bitumin (pitch) which filled basins or "slime pits" into which the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fell in the war with Amraphel king of Shinar and his three confederates. Gen. 14. It was a "well watered" plain and several cities with kings flourished there. Lot chose it for his portion, selfishly selecting the best and leaving his uncle Abraham, his foster parent and benefactor, to eke out his livelihood in the hills of the south and west. The sea is 9 miles east and west and 40 north and south. In depth it varies from 13 feet to 1,300, the greater depth being the location of the supposed ancient lake or sea. Through its whole length there is a gorge corresponding to the present Jordan valley. Geologic breaks to the north and to the south of the sea indicate some mighty convulsion. It is generally accepted that the Scriptural account of the destruction of the "cities of the plain" is correct. The mountains all around it are volcanic in origin and especially the extinct crater of Usdum on the southwestern border of the sea. It is easy to surmise that the "fire and brimstone" was the raining of volcanic lava igniting the pitch deposits and quickly consuming everything inflammable. It was none the less a visitation of divine retribution. The whole valley likewise sank down as it is today. Lot only escaped through angelic intervention owing to the pleadings of Abraham. There sleep today the charred remains of ancient cities whose unmentionable degradation becomes the synonym for excessive depravity to all peoples. Their tombs lead down to hell and the saline waves sing their sad and lonely dirge above them, and sometimes when the lake is lashed by the storm one may imagine he hears the shrieks of the long lost inhabitants; inhabitants who dared the wrath of a Holy God and who mixed the bitter ingredients of their own cup, mixed it and then drank it, even to its awful dregs. What a monument to the fact that Divine Mercy would spare, but Divine Justice will avenge, the latter as essential to the Divine economy as the former. Compare the description in Gen. 13:10 describing it as it was prior to the catastrophe, and that of Deut. 29:23 for its after appearance. The former, "And Lot lifted up his eyes and beheld all the plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere . . . . . even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar." The latter, "And the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath." Here are mentioned the



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names of the other two cities destroyed. "How astounding," says Rev. Geo. Fisk in his *Memoirs of the Holy Land*, "will be the blast of the arch-angel's trumpet, when clanging amidst those bleak and barren rocks and borne like a spell over the surface of those stagnant waters . . . . . and when is laid bare the gloomy secret at which we surmise and shudder."

The name "Dead Sea" is right, for not a microbe lives within it and around it no semblance of vegetation. White sand beaches sparkle with salt encrustations. Trunks of trees brought down by the Jordan "swellings" lie stretched along its shores like the whitened skeleton of some prehistoric mastodon. Fish brought down from the Jordan and the few streams entering the sea from the east are immediately killed and pickled permanently in its brine and float about or lie against the beach. In the vicinity grows the Sodom's apple, or "Dead Sea fruit that turns to ashes on the lips." It is the Osher of the Arabs. It grows to considerable size and has a gray cork-like bark with long oval leaves. The fruit resembles a large yellow apple, beautiful to behold, soft to the touch, but when pressed it explodes with a puff, leaving only the peel and the silky core. It is found also in Nubia, Arabia, and Persia, contrary to general opinion. It is also untrue that birds flying across the sea fall dead upon its surface. Ducks float upon it and wild geese rest there in their flight. Birds are found floating dead, but they perish from exhaustion.

One cannot sink in its waters and the sensation of a Dead Sea bath is as enjoyable as novel. One floats about like a cork lying listless on its bosom, or standing upright, or swimming about with peculiar ease and pleasure. One should not remain too long and a speedy rub down in fresh water is necessary. Bathers often hasten to the Jordan for that purpose. You emerge with an imaginary feeling that you had taken a dip in a sorghum vat. Some tents of Bedouins were pitched on the shore and their women made vehement protests against our bath, judging from the volume of jabbering and gesticulation. We wore our bath suits and helmets.

We did not pay our respects to Mrs. Lot as she was too far to the southwest. We are told that "pillars," or piles of salt are common here and one is pointed out as Lot's wife, but though we accept the account of Genesis, we can hardly believe that so small a piece of salt would survive the erosions of four thousand years and stand there until this day unless miraculously preserved, which no one accepts. Doubtless her only monu-



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ment is a single reference of the Master calling her sad fate to our remembrance. Let us learn from her doom that in this modern age, as in all ages, any one who looks back or even hesitates will be "salted down" and left behind in the quick procession. Of course she reminds us of the penalty of disobedience and the futility of gambling with the chances against God's commands. Treatment of the electric and irrigative possibilities of the Jordan valley, including a gigantic development staggering in its bigness, will be reserved for future discussion.

We have treated at length the historic significance of the Jordan and also its physical characteristics. It remains for us to close this chapter with a few words relative to its striking symbolism.

First, rising in the heights and plunging downward into the Sea of Galilee the Jordan is a symbol of the buoyancy, vivacity, and promise of youth. Its meandering of 180 miles in sixty represents the undecided, indeterminate vacillations of many a young man who never finds himself or his life work until too late. The future uses of the waters of the sea, treated in a later chapter, making the desert valley of the Jordan to blossom again as of yore, is a picture of what his life might become. But alas, it plunges into the Dead Sea of defeat and oblivion.

Second, the Sea of Galilee is a perfect picture of life, of fertility and refreshment and blessing. The Dead Sea is the symbol of death, barrenness, and cursing. The same water flows into each. The one entertains it for a little while and then passes it on to make its contribution as it can to the lower Jordan. The other accepts it and hoards it with never a single drop given out save that under the compulsion of the sun's tropic rays. What an impressive lesson of life! There are those rich souls whose genial personalities receive much from nature and from grace and gladly pass it on to bless and cheer and brighten the vales of human life; who like the Master go about doing good, asking not, "What can I get?" but "What may I give?" These are the rich, the abundant lives fat and flourishing and growing. They live by the side of the road where go by the races of men. Their lives are a perpetual benediction while upon earth and go marching on with compound interest after the bright flowers bloom above their sleeping dust. In contrast there are those who, like the spider, sit within the center of their webs with every strand a sensitive feeler outward asking, "What shall I have for dinner?" "What is there in it for me?"; souls that

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“rot inwardly and foul contagion spread”; exaggerated egos filling their own little words; non-progressives; non-contributors to society’s weal; tight-wads; Old Scrooges, and Silas Marners without their saving qualities. They die and are buried and lift up their eyes in hell, being in torment, like Dives, for this is the first intimation we have that he ever “lifted up his eyes,” or that he had ever seen Lazarus except as a community pest that had to be endured. Or like Lot, who viewed the world as he viewed the rich Jordan plain, as a field for growing vast flocks of fat sheep and of cattle in abundance, instead of a field for investment in human ilfe and its imperishable wealth.

“The bread that bringeth strength I want to give,  
The water pure that bids the thirsty live:  
I want to help the fainting day by day;  
I’m sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give the oil of joy for tears,  
The faith to conquer crowding doubts and fears.  
Beauty for ashes may I give alway:  
I’m sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give good measure running o’er,  
And into angry hearts I want to pour  
The answer soft that turneth wrath away;  
I’m sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give to others hope and faith,  
I want to do all that the Master saith;  
I want to live aright from day to day;  
I’m sure I shall not pass again this way.

Lastly the Jordan is an emblem of separation. It was the barrier between wandering Israel and their promised possession, “a land of hills and valleys; and drinketh water of the rain of heaven; a land which the Lord thy God careth for; the eyes of the Lord are always upon it from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.” Deut. 11:11-12. So to us it emblemizes death, that dark stream that separates the scenes of our earthly migrations from those of our heavenly inheritance—a land of hills and valleys of versatile beauty and happiness, where no night comes, for the sun shall never go down; and in it a New Jerusalem where there is no Temple save God and the Lamb, and where all the kings of the earth bring

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their glory into it, and the gates stand ajar that all whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life may go in and out at will in His perpetual and joyful service. The descriptions of it as a "swelling flood," as a "rolling Jordan," as "a cold river" are overdrawn. We shall not find it so when we seek to cross, and the same hand that parted its waves for the tribes of Israel, and later for the old prophet Elijah, will part them for us if we belong to Him.

"Could we but stand where Moses stood  
And view the landscape o'er,  
Not Jordan's wave nor death's cold flood  
Should fright us from the shore."



## CHAPTER XIV.

**Bethlehem—Solomon's Pools—Hebron.**







**Bethlehem Today.**

“Kwown and loved by all men, women, and especially children everywhere.”





## CHAPTER XIV.

### Bethlehem—Solomon's Pools—Hebron.

Bethlehem—the most famous town on earth—famous far in excess of its size, sits on a hill six miles south of Jerusalem and almost in sight of it. We leave by the Jaffa Gate, pass down the Hinnom valley around by the scarp of old Mt. Zion high above our heads. To the near left is the diminutive tree on which Iscariot hanged himself. It is but a “sapling” and the limbs are low and one wonders how the event could have happened. Also the age of this famous tree complicates the fabulous claim. Ascending the southern slope we cross the elevated plateau, or “Valley of Rephaim,” or giants, where David twice defeated the Philistines and pursued them from Gibeon to Gaze. Soon we are shown the Well of the Magi. It is said that here the Wise Men saw the star reflected in the bottom of the well. It will be recalled that it had temporarily disappeared as they went into Jerusalem and being directed of the chief priests and scribes that the birth of the King should occur in Bethlehem, they started in that direction. On a hill to the left is the Greek Convent of Elijah, or Mar-Elyas. It is claimed that Elijah tarried here in his flight from the infuriated Jezebel. A depression in a big rock by the roadside is where he slept. However, the convent takes its name from one Bishop Elias and has no remote connection with the prophet and is hardly worth the reference.

The view of Bethlehem from this elevation is impressive. Bethlehem known and loved by all men, women, and especially children everywhere; the one city that cannot be hid, famed in song and story, for here was born long years ago “the Savior which is Christ the Lord.” His cradle was but a manger, His companions but the simple kine, His adorers but a few shepherds of the hills, yet out of that cave has come a king that “has lifted the gates of empires from their hinges and turned back the stream of centuries.” and is destined to rule the world. Proceeding southward we reach the Tomb of Rachel. It is a double-compartment concrete building twenty by forty feet in dimension. The front room is but the vestibule to the rear where is the Sarcophagus under which is the reputed grave of Rachel. It is probably authentic. It was observed in an earlier chapter that tombs of Biblical characters had been preserved by Jew and Moslem and Christian. This is the grave of a Jewess, the building was erected by Moslems, and it is like-

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wise respected by Christians. There is no more touching episode than Rachel's death and its effect on Jacob. Every one recalls that she was his favorite and much beloved wife. They were journeying south from Bethel and at this spot Benjamin was born and Rachel died while "there was but a little way to come to Ephrath and was buried in the way to Ephrath . . . . and Jacob set up a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day." Gen. 35:16-20. Many long years afterwards Jacob, an old and bent man, leaning upon his staff, goes back, back to his first love and her sad death and he repeats in tenderest tones the story of his bereavement. "And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when there was yet but a little way to come to Ephrath; and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem." Gen. 47:7. As we entered this tomb we saw the walls disfigured with all kinds of scribblings by ignorant visitors. The outer compartment was filled with Jewish pilgrims whom we had formerly seen at the Wailing Place. They were weeping again, presumably out of sympathy for Jacob; for what other reason we could not surmise. In the tomb compartment venders were selling native drinks, cakes resembling ginger cakes, and slices of melon.

Bethlehem (Beit-Lahm) means House of Bread, and such it has become. For from this village has gone the Bread of Life, the Manna from heaven that not alone satisfies the hunger of the world's heart but feeds and nourishes and develops the spiritual forces of all men in all ages and all places. The town is situated on a hill with well cultivated terraces of vines and fig trees, and with fertile corn and wheat fields surrounding. Until recently little farming occurred and the land was used for grazing. Bedouins who people the Wilderness of Engedi to the south and east confiscated everything in sight. Hence the people subsisted by manufacturing souvenirs, such as bracelets, rosaries, beads, paper knives, paper weights, cigar holders, match boxes, etc. The material used is olive wood, reputed to come from Gethsemane which is false, mother of pearl, and Dead Sea stone. The shops supply most of the stores in Jerusalem. The workmen are very adept. They sit on the floor or ground and wield the tools with skill. One of the most interesting sights was that of artisans turning a small lathe with one hand and holding the article lathed with the toes. A bow resembling those of our boyhood had the cord wrapped around the lathe wheel and by pulling it back and forth a rapid revolving was produced. We saw here another



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use of a similar bow, though much longer. The wool was carded by snapping it with the bowstring. In fact we saw this at several points. As soon as we entered the market place we were beset by determined and persistent venders of trinkets, post cards, etc. Two of them almost came to blows over the purchase of a trifle.

The little city contains 2,000 houses and 8,000 people. They were more civil and cleanly than any we saw. The women were more attractive. It is said that they are a mixture from the days of the Crusaders, which perhaps applies to a large portion of the population. The Bethlehem women love to deck themselves in embroidered jackets of brightest hues and rich colored veils. They visit each other much and sit on the floor, or rather on fancy figured rugs, drinking the strong oriental coffee from tiny cups and smoking the tchibouk. Quite a number of wealthy Jews live here, having come from various parts of the world in order to die on sacred soil and there be buried. See one such building in the foreground of the picture. Bethlehem is the most Christian town in Palestine. Once Moslems were in the majority and they rebelled against Ibrahim Pasha in 1834 and were almost exterminated by him and the Moslem Quarter destroyed.

As above stated, here Rachel died, and the beautiful Ruth gleaned after the reapers her handfuls of wheat, and incidentally gleaned a fine old bachelor for a good husband. Here David, Ruth's grandson, was anointed king while in the nearby fields he tended his father's flocks and composed many of the beautiful Psalms, including perhaps the noble Twenty-Third, while the strains from his harp trembled on the adjacent hillsides, which same hillsides and fields later caught up the midnight song of angels sent to announce the gladdest news the world ever received. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men; for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." It should be mentioned that four of David's nephews, Joab, Abishai, Asahel, sons of his sister, Zeruiah, and Amasa, son of the other sister, Abigail, attained considerable celebrity as brave men. Asahel was "light of foot as a wild roe."

The city today centers its interest in the Church of the Nativity. It is the oldest existent Christian church, being built by Helena A. D. 330. It is 90 by 100 feet and contains a large inner chapel with two rows of monolithic columns with fine Corinthian decorations. There are 24 columns in

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each row. The crests of the Crusader Knights who visited the church in the 12th century are carved on these columns. Some of them are supposed to have been relics of Solomon's Temple. It is more probable that they came from Solomon's elegant porch in Herod's Temple. The walls were once adorned with fine paintings and mosaics but the corrosions of the centuries have defaced them. The wooden roof is decayed. The grottos of the Nativity and the Manger attract chief attention. The former is a rock hewn chapel 10 by 12 by 33 feet, at the end of which in a grotto is the place where was first heard the "baby's low cry." A large brass star on a marble floor-plate marks the exact spot. Rich red velvet curtains with gilded lace ornaments covering them are gracefully draped over the alcove while fifteen silver lamps perpetually burn above this hallowed spot, six belonging to the Greeks, four to the Romans, and five to the Armenians. Nearby and very similarly located is another cave said to locate the Manger, or the feed trough, in which the infant Christ was laid in lieu of a cradle. This reputed manger is now in the Church of San-Maria Maggiore at Rome. A little to one side is the Chapel of the Annunciation of the angel to Joseph that he should flee into Egypt. Farther on is the Chapel of the Innocents where the large number slain by Herod's demonic decree are said to have been buried. The Milk Grotto is where Mary was in hiding before the flight and its snowy whiteness is due to the fact that a single drop of her milk fell on the floor. It is sacred to maternity and to this day many mothers kneel here and the flow of nourishment increases in sufficient quantities for their infants. Those unable to visit the grotto get the same results from eating a certain biscuit in which the dust from the rock is mixed. One chapel is dedicated to Saint Jerome, the eminent saint and scholar who lived for many years in this cave and translated his version of the Scriptures. He was canonized and is buried here. There are a number of other chapels of minor importance.

On a tablet in the Place of the Nativity is a Latin inscription, "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est.", on this spot Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. There is little room for doubt as to the reliability of this claim. At least it has the credibility of venerable antiquity. It will be remembered that the church was built in 330 A. D. and tradition says that the exact cave was well known and preserved up to that time. The marble of the floors of this Nativity Chapel is being worn by the knees and lips of devout worshipers who come in a continual stream from far and near.



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On Christmas Day from 2 p. m. till midnight the town is filled with pilgrims and the church is crowded to suffocation with a scrouging, frantic condensed mass of human flesh, each one trying to get nearest the star. Turkish soldiers stand guard and in the past serious riots have occurred and a number have perished; right here on the spot where the Prince of Peace was born. The Mohammedan guards are continually in evidence. Mohammedans have always revered Christ as a great prophet next to Mohammed himself and under Turkish rule they exercised control of the church though it was a Catholic edifice, and under the terms of the English capture all sacred places were left as formerly. Hence the Moslem guards.

About a mile north of the town is David's Well. When he and his men were hiding in the Cave of Adullam six miles south of Bethlehem, which town was in the possession of the Philistines, David expressed a desire for some of the water. "Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate." Three mighty men broke through the enemy's lines and brought it to him, but he refused to drink of it because the lives of the three had been so greatly hazarded in securing it, and he poured it out on the ground. His act is open to criticism.

A short distance east of the town is the Shepherds' Field where sang the angels long ago. It is still regarded with great sanctity. On the day before Christmas large numbers of the pilgrims from many lands gather here and celebrate with a mammoth picnic, many of them becoming intoxicated. The ground of the field is covered in spring time with beautiful scarlet anemones, the "lilies of the field" so richly adorned by the deft touch of the infinite artist that the gorgeous decorations of Solomon's courtly robes were not worthy to be compared.

South of Bethlehem a few miles is a wild and seamy section known as the Wilderness of Engedi, in the western and wildest part of which is the Cave of Adullam mentioned above. It is entered by crawling on hands and knees over huge boulders. The cave is a large hallway 130 feet long and 40 broad with lateral chambers opening further into the limestone mountain. One cave but leads into another. Here David hid from Saul, and his father Jesse and family resorted unto him, as did many who were in distress and debt, and he organized them into a band over which he was captain. Nearby in the valley are the three large Pools of Solomon, or the reservoirs he built in the prosperous days of his reign. Fine stone aqueducts



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conveyed the water to Jerusalem by Bethlehem and immense cisterns under the Temple were kept filled in readiness for siege, and the gardens blossomed and fruited under the effect of irrigation. There is still considerable water in them. They have been repaired from time to time. Since 1902 a five-inch pipe conveys the water to Jerusalem. Not far off were the Gardens of Solomon described in Eccle, 2, and Song Sol. 4.

Eighteen miles to the south of Bethlehem is Hebron, the city of Abraham, El-Khalil, the Friend. Its antiquity vies with that of Damascus as a continuous city. Its first name was Kirjath-arba, from Arba, the father of Anak the giant. Mamre, however, a little to the west was the more probable residence of Abraham. The Cave of Macphela bought by him from the sons of Heth located at Hebron gets its interest from the fact that Abraham and Sara, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah, are all buried here. The graves are generally understood to be authentic. A fine Mosque covers the grave and but few favored dignitaries save Moslems have ever been privileged to enter the caves. It is one of the deepest regrets of the writer's life that he did not get to view these, the world's most famous tombs. Some day it may be this coveted privilege shall come. Photos possessed give a good general view. We shall borrow the fine description of Mr. Henry Morgenthau, who as our ambassador to Turkey recently visited the tombs, securing special permission from the Sultan:

"Several of the tombs were above ground, and over them were erected stone catafalques, their sides adorned with gorgeously embroidered rugs, and broken by grilled doorways, through which entrance to the tomb itself was permitted. (He means here that of Abraham.) The other tombs were in caves below the mosque. They could be seen through holes left in the floor for that purpose." At the suggestion of Dr. Hoskins, a Christian missionary of the party, ten minutes were spent in silent prayer and Mr. Morgenthau, a Jew, says that "the ten minutes spent in this prayer was the most sacred of my life." He says, "Never have I experienced so solemn and exalted an emotion as that which filled my spirit, standing there to worship in these tombs four thousand years old around which converged and met a sublime religious history which had altered the life of one-half the human race for forty centuries." Not far away is the Oak of Mamre in a garden. It is large but not that of four thousand years ago. Acorns are sold the pilgrim for souvenirs. Here appeared the Lord to Abraham

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as he sat in the door of his tent on the day before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and from some peak nearby he viewed its ascending smoke. Here lived Jacob when Joseph was taken from him. Later Joshua captured and destroyed it and gave it to Caleb, his brave compatriot. It became one of the Cities of Refuge. David resided here seven and one-half years and Absalom was born here. The brave Abner was killed and buried here and later came here Absalom to steal away the hearts of the people from his father under the pretext of performing a religious vow. Here his rebellion started that ended so ingloriously and so deplorably for this rebellious and ungrateful son. But it is most renowned for its possession of the tomb of an old shepherd who went out long before from home and kindred at the command of God, not knowing whither he went, but because of his implicit faith in God and obedience to him became the father of an endless progeny known as the sons of God that shall eventually be as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands of the sea for multitude.





## CHAPTER XV.

**Palestine the Old and the New.**



## CHAPTER XV.

### Palestine, the Old and the New.

Notwithstanding its smallness Palestine has filled a place in the eyes and actions of the past far in excess of its size. It has been the pawn for which nations have striven back and forth with all the vehemence of their capacity. Dynasties have risen and fallen because of her, and her total soil has been soaked in the blood not only of her own population, but that of her invading hosts.

No spot of land has been so distinguished and no people have suffered so much as her people. Belgium is described as the "Cock-pit of Europe." Palestine is the "Cock-pit of the world." The march of armies, the clash of weapons of war, and the din of battle has ever been hers. Into her and through her have marched Assyrians and Babylonians, Egyptians and Ethiopians, Hittites and Israelites, Midianites and Syrians, Greeks and Romans, Parthians and Persians, Arabs and Mongols, Turks and Franks, and three thousand white crosses at Jerusalem and others at various points tell of the recent baptism of her war torn soil. Jerusalem herself from earliest times to its destruction A. D. 70 by the Roman legions, including thirty-three centuries of her history, according to the eminent historian, George Adam Smith, "has endured some twenty sieges of the utmost severity; almost twenty blockades and military occupations; . . . earthquakes which have rocked her foundations, . . . and about eighteen reconstructions."

"Death rode upon the sulphury siroc,  
Red battle stamped his foot and nations felt the shock."

Even the author of Lamentations could say of her 500 years before Christ, "Behold and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow." Lam. 1:2. Then imagine her sufferings for two and a half succeeding milleniums. Says Milman, "Jerusalem has probably witnessed a far greater portion of human misery than any other spot upon the earth." Despite all this she has steadily persisted and vast populations have clung to and subsisted upon her soil. It is estimated that two million Israelites entered with Joshua, including the two and a half tribes that settled east of the Jordan. Perhaps a million more remained of original inhabitants, as many of its most desirable sections, including much of the Jordan Valley, remained un-



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subdued. It is reliably estimated that at least six million were there in the time of Christ.

Excavators have found at Lachish six successive cities and this is true in multiplied instances. On top of the soil are remains of ancient aqueducts, temples, palaces, demolished ruins, roadways, and relics of a long and glorious past. Beyond the deductions of the explorers on and below ground, we know but little in detail of what vast peoples and what teeming cities of wealth and splendor existed from Dan to Beer-Sheba. After Israelitish occupation we have the definite chronicle of sacred and profane history, both of which encourage us to believe that the productivity of the soil met the needs of her dense populations.

Once the slopes of the many hills and mountains were either covered with forests or decked with vine covered terraces and olive orchards, while its vales waved with golden harvests and vast herds of cattle pastured fat upon its rich herbage. The forests conserved and retained the winter rains and there gushed forth from the granite hillsides many streams along whose banks harvests and orchards alternated with gold and green. It was indeed a land that flowed with milk and honey and oil from the rocks.

Its two most glorious epochs were first, Solomon's wide and rich reign; second, the years just before Christ and up to 364 A. D., when Rome became divided, the one Jewish and co-operative, the other Roman and compulsive. But when in 637 A. D. Palestine fell to the Mohammedan Caliphs and the Turks the blistering blight of Islam settled down dark and dismal upon her. From then till 1917 when the good hand of God broke her strangle hold and a progressive nation assumed the mandatory control the land disintegrated and its people suffered and starved and diminished in numbers and in quality until today all the trees are gone, virtually all the terraces are washed down into the valleys, Bedouin herdsmen follow wandering flocks, pasturing on what meager remains of harvested crops they can find. For nine months the hot sun bakes the dry hillsides and the breezes fill the air with lime dust. The population today of Palestine is but 700,000, four-fifths of whom are Mohammedans, 76,000 are Jews, and 77,000 are Christians, mostly Catholics. But one-tenth of its former population now eke out a miserable subsistence. But its former glory may be repeated. The soil is rich and productive as of old. Granted favorable conditions and again

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will the vine, the fig tree, the almond and the olive make verdant the slopes while the sower may go forth to sow and the reaper may rejoice over abundant harvests that wave for a prosperous and happy people.

On December 11, 1917, at high noon the clock struck the hour that presaged the regeneration of this long cursed land. General Edmund H. H. Allenby entered Jerusalem and the blighting Turk fled. The people wept for joy. The world's pulse quickened, for the civilized world loves Palestine and is tremendously interested in it. Had there come no other asset of the war, the liberation of the Holy Land was worth all the effort and suffering and sacrifice incident to the awful struggle. What England then possessed she now holds, and will hold, and her record of just and wise administration elsewhere will be and is now being sustained. She of herself is able to supervise and finance the vast development of Palestine resources. But Jews the world over have asked the privilege of bringing back the land of their fathers to its erstwhile glory. Zionism today is the world's foremost enterprise. The Keren Hayesod is the international organization that has aroused world Jewry and multi-millions of dollars are being and will be poured forth in addition to government resources. There is, of course, a division within Jewish ranks, but not serious enough to prevent enthusiastic success. Then the Moslem world and the Pope are very unfavorable, the former very fanatically objective, the latter discreetly so, but a wise diplomacy and humane consideration will obviate all these difficulties in the end. Whatever other objections are made there are two that compel meritorious consideration. First, the oppressed Jewry in Russia and other similar situations needs a homeland of free atmosphere. Second, Palestine itself needs the brains, money, and restorative wizardry of the published Zionist program. This program includes in its intended benefits all of the residents and promises faithfully to build Palestine not only for Jews but for Moslems and Christians as well. In keeping with this broad and wise policy Earl Balfour, England's great Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, issued on November 2, 1917, his memorable statement known as "The Balfour Declaration." It is brief and is as follows: "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People, and will use its best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish com-



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munities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country." On January 11, 1922, he reaffirmed his position in these words, "Where I stood then, I stand now. The hope I then entertained, I entertain still . . . . My interest in the cause, my belief in its final success, my intense desire to see the ideal of the Jewish Home transformed into a great reality has not diminished or suffered any cooling during the years that have elapsed since the original Declaration was made." He is hailed by Jews everywhere as Cyrus the II making possible another and greater return of the scattered Nation to its homeland. The House of Commons under the zealous leadership of Mr. Winston Churchill, the Colonial Secretary, on July 4, 1922, by a vote of 292 to 35, ratified this Declaration. Zionists held a world jubilee. The United States House and Senate had just prior to that date passed a sympathetic resolution embodying the ideal of the Declaration. Now the way is open and the English Government issued its manifesto on July 1 giving its Palestine program, called "The White Paper." It is that which was adopted July 4. This paper recognizes the various and serious difficulties, cautions reasonable deliberation and slowness of action, restricts immigration to sane limits, and gives Zionists the right to lay out and execute their mammoth program under the protection of the Union Jack. For the past fifty years Jews have been colonizing and fifty colonies have been established. Large quantities of land have been purchased. The most prosperous location is near Jaffa at the town of Tel-Aviv, founded thirteen years ago, which by great hardship has made the desert to bloom as the rose. Citrus fruits grow well and plentifully produce. Beautiful gardens abound. It elicited Mr. Churchill's extravagant praise and is but a prophecy of future developments in the large. No one has ever accused the Jewish nation of being brainless or moneyless. This city has a population of 12,000 and has recently voted bonds for thoroughly modern improvements. Already there are factories for manufacturing bricks, fruit preserves, sweets, artificial mineral waters, cork plants, carpenter shops, etc., with much more in immediate prospect. An additional tract has recently been secured for an industrial center of 150 shops of various kinds, stores, banks, offices, and warehouses. Another 1,250 acre addition has also been purchased for fruits and vegetables. Thus can be seen a model of many similar industrial and civic centers all over the land. Fifty years from today Palestine will be the garden of the world. Its climate is healthy save on certain marshes and streams and war against the anopheles mosquito



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and drainage will eliminate all that. Eucalyptus gardens will be planted. These counteract malaria. With fine harbors constructed at Jaffa and Haifa and also near Gaza and with modern railroad facilities the greatest tourist and resort objective of the world is within almost immediate prospect. There are hot sulphur springs around the Sea of Galilee and up and down the Jordan valley and the slopes of the Anti-Lebanons and the mountains of Judea with intended forestation will make living or tourist residence there a joy and delight. Alexandria and Cairo are great winter resorts. Most of the country is elevated, and breezes continually blow. The nights even in August are delightfully cool. For nine months at least the Holy Land under the magic of modern skill will prove the resort of the civilized world. The Sea of Galilee will be belted with beautiful villas and bathing and sailing and fishing will furnish continual pleasure. Sentiment will play its large part. Jews will be passionately drawn to it and Gentiles but little less.

Palestine is rich in agricultural and horticultural possibilities and the essential means of developing these is at hand and will be discussed below. In 1913 the exports of high grade barley reached 19,000 tons, olive oil 3,500 tons, oranges 1,608,000 tons, almonds over 2,000,000 pounds, light wine 1,000,000 gallons, one million watermelons. These exports fell off during the war but now are rapidly coming back and will steadily increase. At least 80 per cent of all Palestine is possible agricultural land giving, with the Moab plains and Hauran beyond Jordan, an area of 20,000 square miles.

Ezekiel cries out in his immortal vision, "Everything shall live whither the river cometh." He thus expresses the essential and fundamental need of Palestine's rehabilitation. Water, water, water. His description of the redemption of the desert and wilderness of En-Gedi—and such it surely is today—is but a prophetic epitome of possible and probable redemption of the whole land. The waters issued out of the Temple. In other words, religious inspiration and patriotism would furnish the reclamative means. This is being done. A religious nation holds the mandate. A religious people, a people whose solidarity has been preserved through the ages by its religion alone, are fulfilling the prophecy. This essential watering will occur from two sources. First, scientific forestation will hold and release gradually the heavy winter rainfall, which averages around thirty inches.

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What does not percolate through the soil will easily be impounded and released gradually. Secondly, and most important, gigantic and wholesale irrigation schemes will harness and distribute every drop of water its numerous streams afford—and one would be surprised at their number. Mr. Pinchus Ruttenburg, a great civil engineer and a Jew, has secured a concession from Great Britain for controlling these waters and electrifying as well as irrigating vast regions. His concession is known as the Ruttenburg Scheme and already Jews alone have subscribed more than the amount estimated for the project. American Jews at once rushed forward and took \$1,110,000 of stock in the enterprise. The authority is secured, the money is in hand, the plan has been endorsed as eminently feasible. It comprehends building a great dam south of and near Lake Galilee, using the escaping water for a large electric plant to be used primarily for pumping the fresh waters of the Lake into an upland reservoir that with canals and aqueducts will irrigate all the Jordan Valley and other sections adjacent. This will not destroy the Lake but will dry up the Dead Sea and make available its salt and other mineral riches. Smaller projects will be built on other streams and what the Nile has done for Egypt on a large scale, and what the Barada has done for Damascus on a small scale, will be done by Ruttenburg for Palestine. In addition efforts will be made for a big system of artesian wells if necessary. With water, with soil fertility, with climate, who can picture the next century in Palestine?

Still another project far more staggering than this has been much discussed and endorsed by leading Norwegian and English engineers. It contemplates building an underground tunnel 135 feet in diameter from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea, which is a fall of 1,300 feet in some fifty miles. This tunnel would perhaps go deep under Jerusalem. From it side flumes would lead to small electric plants, the salt water being flumed back into the Dead Sea. At a suitable location a mammoth electric plant would generate millions of horse power that would electrify all Palestine. It was intended to transmit power to the pumping station at Galilee. This would raise the level of the Dead Sea but six inches and damage no soil not hitherto dead. The two projects are feasible and do not conflict and though the Ruttenburg scheme will be first in execution the other will come along as needed. This is not Utopian or impractical. Sacred relics will remain, the old walls of Jerusalem will abide, but Jerusalem will be builded outside the



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present city into a metropolis of a half million souls. A great Jewish University is already being established on Mount Scopus without the walls. The city will perhaps be a religious and educational capitol and residential city for the rich. I have but hinted at the problem of Zionism which openly claims a coming Jewish majority. It takes no seer to predict that probability, and that is what stirs the Moslem to desperation. Candor compels me to say that well may he be aroused. He must go, whether he should or not. Many think his past record demands it. The Jew will possess the land. He will pay good prices for it. He will run Palestine. Brains always rule. However, he will need native labor and will pay well for it. In the meantime old Mesopotamia will be brought back, harnessing the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates and at an estimated cost of \$128,000,000 room for a prosperous Moslem multitude will be provided on such favorable terms that a gradual and steady flux of emigrants will congregate back here at the cradle of the race. Eden thus will return, at least materially.

Suitable industrial ventures at present feasible and needed in Palestine are flour milling, olive oil and etherial oil factories, sugar refineries, cocoa and chocolate factories, wines, starch, paper milling for orange packing, cotton textiles—for Syria already grows 2,000 tons and Palestine can and will grow it largely—tanneries of which there is abundant material and there will be much more, glass works, machine shops, building materials, silicate stones, chemical research and manufacturing industries. Jewish initiative and resources will suggest many more.

The mineral resources of Palestine are very rich. There are quarry stones, abundant everywhere, lime abundant and of good quality, salt in vast quantities, carnalite, important as manure, found in abundance in the waters of the Dead Sea as is also bromine, sulphur in environs of same, phosphates east of the Jordan, asphalt, bituminous limes in plentiful quantities, petroleum. Palestine is between the oil regions of Egypt and Mesopotamia and oil springs are found in several places. Also geological reports are favorable. Leases in large quantities have been taken up by English and American companies, including the Standard Oil interests. Copper, alum, amber, ozokerite, or kerosene bearing shale—these and many more might be mentioned.

Politically we cannot surmise what the hand of Providence shall decree or what will be the moves on the national chess board, but we believe that



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England will keep her just and considerate hand upon this loved spot and will foster all legitimate development. A Jewish Republic may become an eventuality. Fifteen million Jews only are in the world. Only half of them are oppressed and always only a minority would wish to return. But the rest will lay down the money for those who do wish it and Jewish brotherhood or national cohesion will always back up this anticipated realization of a vision that has always danced before an exiled nation whose persecutions have cried to heaven for redress, and the persistence of whose nationalism and cohesion is the world's most ethnic miracle. It may be that the prophecies are literal and while the Christian is now the son of Abraham by faith, who knows but that this Palestinian rehabilitation is but the prologue of that glorious drama when Israel shall again gather around the brow of Calvary, not this time to deride or to crucify assentedly, but to look in tearful penitence on His face whom they once pierced, even though it was honestly done, and will welcome Him in glorious triumph to a throne and a kingdom worldwide in its sweep and universal in its blissful results, when "every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:10-11. "Thus saith the Lord: I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain." Zach. 8:2.



The Author as Sheik of the Sahara Desert.





## CHAPTER XVI.

### Going Down Into Egypt.

It took Israel 40 years to cross the desert. It was done by our little party by rail in 16 hours. Thus the magic of the inventor, the skill of the mechanic, the daring of the pioneer, have condensed the duration of years into a few brief hours, and have abbreviated the winding mileage of the desert into a short steel ribbon of commerce and transportation and, as mentioned in a former chapter, have actually brought the Nile into Palestine. For as we sped along southward we saw the large water pipes, sometimes above ground, sometimes indicated by a thrown up sand ridge, while at every station passengers filled their small water jars at the friendly spigots and the engine drank liberally. Over a smooth roadbed we hastened and the shrill engine whistle rang across the blanched and barren stillness of the desert like a thing of life screaming in triumph over the torrid heat of the sun, the oceans of sand, and the hitherto impassabilities of the desert. Here and there at rare intervals we saw palm groves and other vegetation, a sure index of an occasional spring. We caught flashes of blue from the Mediterranean as we drew near its shore, which we soon began to hug, detouring at Lake Sirbon, a large lagoon fringed with marsh. We passed Bir-el-Abt where is a good well and some trees and about four p. m. we came into Kantara on the Suez canal. Here we transferred to the Cairo train and here we had our patience sorely taxed over the exactions of custom officers whose only qualification was a uniform and a piece of chalk. Five dollars was extorted from this scribe, every cent unjustly. We had the satisfaction of taking it up personally with the head office in Alexandria and long after our return home received a draft in full for the amount.

The canal is about 200 feet wide and carries thirty feet of water. While we were waiting several large steamers and much smaller craft slowly passed under the draw. This canal is a world convenience and a source of large revenue to England. It was built by Ferdinand deLessups, whose old home is at Ismailia, five miles south, where a fresh water canal connects with the Nile near Cairo. Kantara is on the ancient highway over which traveled Abraham and Sara and over which migrated Jacob and his family "going down into Egypt." In fact the railroad had conformed largely to this old and much used caravan route and even still we met or passed



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camel trains rocking along at snail's pace as it was done in the days before Abraham was. What a contrast of the old with the new. Shall the camel pass before the iron horse, the auto, or the flying machine, as the horse has done, or will do, in America? We cannot look so far into the future, but some day when water shall flow through the desert and the wilderness and solitary place shall be made glad it may be so. If, as St. Paul affirmed at Athens, God has set the boundaries of the habitations of men, it may also be said that He has also placed the needed animals for his service and sustenance. The camel is one of God's best creatures. His worth is only exceeded by his ugliness. We saw him tried under all conditions and he was always ready to do his master's bidding. 'Tis true that he growls when he gets down and grunts when he gets up, but means nothing by it. The following composition of the little boy is worth giving here: "The cammil is a sheep of the desert. It does not have to get angry to get its back up for nature made it that way. When cammils go on a journey they drink as much water as to last many days. Such cammils are called aquiducks." Blessings on the "cammil." We would like to say more of him but must desist at present. We shall meet him again at the Pyramids and shall add a few words of him then.

At nine p. m. we pulled into Cairo. Of course we were greatly fatigued, but a bath and rest in a fine room in the New Khedivial hotel made us over. We were wakened by the chant of the muezzin over our heads nearby and the screech of the Osiris bird. This bird, sacred to the Egyptians, nests in the many palm trees. Under our window was the beautiful park of the Syrian Club and in each of the many palms it seemed that "old Sirus" sat and screeched. He is of a dull dove color and is slightly larger than a pigeon. We saw them everywhere and heard them where we did not see.

In riding from Kantara to Cairo we had crossed the Land of Goshen where Joseph placed his father's family and where they remained 430 years. Ex. 12:40. The Nile divides just north of Cairo into several mouths and forms a rich delta which spreads out like a fan. This is alluvial soil and very fertile. From the east prong to the upper Red Sea stretches a vale or plain through which ran an ancient canal of sufficient size to float large ships. It connected the Red Sea with the Nile. It is now filled up. This section was especially suitable for pasturage of the vast flocks of Israel, as that was their main occupation. At the beginning of the 80 years' oppression Rameses the Second, the Pharaoh that knew not Joseph, forced the

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Israelites to build two large fortified cities within this territory. They were called "treasure cities" and named Pithom and Raamses, and were used to house the rent collected from the Israelite slaves and to garrison the land to keep them subdued, as they were increasing so rapidly. Exodus 1:11.

At the head or handle of the beautiful green Nile fan delta sits Cairo like a diamond setting off the emerald background. Heroditus, the father of history, says that "Egypt is the gift of the Nile." This famous river, the longest on earth, rises 4,037 miles south in the heights of equatorial Africa in the lakes Victoria Nyanza and Albert Nyanza, that is the White Nile prong, so called from the clay through which it runs discoloring the water. The other prong, the Blue Nile, rises way up in the Abyssinian mountains 10,000 feet high and descends through a series of falls. They unite at Khartoum. The melting snows on these heights produce the Nile freshets which periodically overflow and so fructify the celebrated valley that it has made an ancient civilization of peculiar prominence and still sustains its fame with dependable seasons and abundant harvests. The Assouan dam, farther up the river, is one of the world's most gigantic undertakings and by it the water is impounded and properly distributed. Because of evaporation and irrigation the Nile decreases in volume as it nears the sea. At Cairo it is 1,100 feet wide. A beautiful little island called Rhoda lies in its middle. Here is shown you the ancient bathing place of Pharaoh's daughter and the spot in a bunch of flags or rushes where the arklet containing the "proper child" Moses was discovered. It may be the spot. Nearby is the nilometer built in the early part of the 8th century by one of the rulers. It is a well with descending stair steps and a scale for measuring the height of rising water. Prior to its establishment a standard tax was imposed and failure to pay entailed great hardships. Some years the rise was too meager to guarantee a harvest. This nilometer was intended to regulate the tax according to the registered amount of water. It helped much for some time but dishonest officers took advantage of the ignorant fellahin and it fell into disrepute. One-half mile north of Rhoda is the island of Gizireh, somewhat larger and across it runs the Nile bridge over which passes the main road leading to the pyramids.

The Nile valley is sometimes 20 miles wide but averages 7 miles. Canals and irrigation ditches are the main methods of furnishing water to the fields. Then there are wells with chain buckets lifted by oxen treading round and round, or perhaps donkeys. This is called "Sakieh." These buckets empty



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a constant stream into a ditch. Then there are smaller, simpler methods, notably that used by the hand lift called "Shaduf." A pole balanced on an upright carrying a basket daubed with pitch is dipped into the canal or the river and swung around and elevated to a higher level of irrigation. It is a tedious and laborious process but successful for a small area. The Upper Nile begins to rise in February and reaches the delta below Cairo in May and is highest in September and remains at its maximum level for 14 days. The usual rise is 24 feet. It leaves a rich deposit and in some places the alluvial depth is 40 feet. As is known, the climate is tropical. The fields produce lavishly of cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar-cane, sorghum, barley, beans, clover, maize, and much else, especially vegetables, including melons and cucumbers. The plowing is still crude and done by camels and donkeys on the dry land and water buffaloes in the water or marshy sections.

Cairo is a Moslem center and minarets are as abundant almost as in Damascus, but more ornate. The muezzin still calls prayers for a fanatic multitude. The city today, new Cairo, El Kahireh, "The Victorious," contains 600,000 people or more. Old Cairo, Fostat, was situated nearer the Nile and south of the Citadel. It was built in 700 A. D. The Citadel is the chief building in modern Cairo and sits on its highest elevation, 250 feet, in the southeastern margin of the city. It covers several acres and is called "The Castle of the Nile." It was erected in 1166 A. D. by the great Saladin, the chivalrous foe of Richard Coeur de Lion. The large stones composing it were brought from several of the small pyramids and one of the large ones and no respect was shown for these monumental and massive tombs, some of them at least 5,000 years old. Here in its great court Mohammed Ali in 1811 treacherously slaughtered 479 of the Mamalukes, or descendants of the powerful slave kings that preceded him. They were invited to a banquet and fired on by soldiers hidden in the galleries overhead. Only one, Emyr Bey, leaped his horse over the wall, falling 100 feet, and escaped by springing from the saddle just before reaching the ground. He sustained a broken collar bone and a general shake up but fled to a mosque and thence was spirited to the desert and survived. Within the Citadel are numerous buildings. The celebrated Alabaster Mosque is the finest one in the city. In erecting it Mohammed Ali bankrupted Egypt. It cost four million dollars and is indescribably beautiful. White alabaster pillars and walls glisten as the light floods down through the mammoth dome. Rich curtains hang here and there and the floor is covered with great rugs of fabulous cost.



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Many of them, however, were donated by wealthy rulers and other patrons, as in Omar and Omalyade. This mosque was designed as the tomb of its builder and his mummied remains lie in a gorgeous mausoleum in one corner of the building. We climbed to the highest point of the Citadel and obtained a view long to be remembered. Due east and nearby are the Mokattam Hills containing petrified forests and as far as sight can reach wave the white billows of a sea of sand. To the north and west lies the whole city of Cairo with its narrow streets and towering minarets. To the east is the Nile and ten miles beyond stand the lordly and majestic pyramids, silent sentinels of dead centuries and vanished glory. They do not seem so large at this distance. We had ample reason to revise our estimate the following day.

The Mosque of the Sultan Hassan is adjacent to the Citadel and is believed by some to be more elegant than that of Mohammed Ali. It may have once excelled it, and indeed there are many magnificent interior furnishings, but in the main the building is in decay. The oldest mosque is that of Hassoun, not far from the above. One of its three minarets has outside spiral stairs up which the Sultan might ride his horse if he should so desire. This was his expressed reason for ordering it so built. In Old Cairo is the Mosque of Amer, formerly alluded to in Chapter X, with the duplicate columns similar to those in the Mosque El-Aksa. Passage between these was a sure passport to heaven. Amer was the great general of the Khalif Omar. When it was completed he exclaimed: "With this mosque the religion of El-Islam rises, and with its fall perishes the faith of our holy prophet." The natives still quote and believe this saying and the dilapidated condition of the building must haunt them continually. It is prophetic, for the care any people exercise toward their houses of worship is an unfailing index of prevailing religious conditions. The mosques generally are crumbling and their worshippers decreasing. There are many mosques in and around the city but the above are the most prominent. It is significant that nowhere we toured are mosques in course of erection, while most of them are in need of repair. Islam must go. The crescent must wane before the cross.

The bazarrhs of Cairo are exceedingly interesting and approximate those of Damascus. They are segregated as there. The principle bazarrh street is El-Khaleel, a long street running north and south and paralleling the

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canal of the same name, El-Khalia. There are the Tunis bazarrhs for Arab and Moorish cloaks, rugs, shoes, burnooshes, etc.; the El Azhar or book stores where Korans are sold as well as printed; the El-Ghoria selling cotton goods, silks, fezes, etc.; the gold and silver lace shops; bazarrhs for fruits; slippers, red and yellow colors predominating; carpets and divan-rugs; antique ornaments; jeweled scimitars; all sorts of goods from far off India, from Persia and the Arabian desert—from everywhere. These bazarrhs, many of them, employ runners who speak good English and are of suave manner and good address who, as self-appointed guides, steer you into the proper shop where its genial proprietor sits among his stuff waiting for you as the spider did the fly. However, you can have the usual diversion of bargaining as at Damascus and can get reliable goods at fair prices if you know how. Everywhere you go you meet the walking salesman of beads, post cards, cigarettes, and canes. The beadsman holds out his arm, over which hangs a variety of beads so select and beautiful that no one can fail to admire and few fail to purchase. The bazarrh streets are narrow and dark and unsanitary and exhibit the characteristic commingling of men, women, children, horses, donkeys, camels, dogs, and beggars. Here we saw the peculiar brass ornament on the Moslem woman's nose. We were told that it was a sign of marriage and subserviency to the husband; that when the wife was unruly her lord pressed down on this nose ornament and the great pain produced usually effected the desired control. The day of the militant suffragette has not come in Egypt. It surely served to hold the black veil away from the nostrils and thus facilitates respiration. The prevailing dress of the Moslem woman is depressing black with veil to match. The better class women wear silky transparent white veils that reveal jet black roguish eyes bewitching and beautiful. Their blackness is increased by the use of kohl, while the fingers are pinked with henna. On the streets the women never speak to men and are not spoken to by them. We saw them peering through latticed windows at the "Americana" entourage. We did not visit a moslem home and saw no unveiled women, but from outward appearances the middle and lower classes are much cursed and depressed while the better class are attractive.

We did not get to see the dancing or howling dervishes, much to our regret. But we did see the professional fakers. One arose from his seat beside us on the train out to visit the Obelisk and ran a twenty penny nail



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down his nose and extracted it from his mouth along with a multitude of smaller articles. He soon collected enough from our party to pay his fare. We saw him again at the hotel. But another more skillful than he gave us a parlor performance both interesting and puzzling. From a little silken bag he took out a small white rabbit and many other articles. Then with these he performed amazing tricks, such as pulling eggs from the rabbit's nose, eating cotton and igniting it in his stomach, apparently, and blowing out a volume of smoke like a steam engine, extracting coins from one's hand or pocket, removing rings from a stick of which you held both ends, and a number of other antics of similar nature. He kept repeating "come rabbit, come snake, come debbil, gully, gully, gully," the last word supposedly meaning "devil." It gave a weirdness to the performance we did not relish.

The Mosque El Ashar, or the Book Mosque, is now the University of Cairo. It is a large building on the east side of the city. It is boasted that it is "the largest university in the world," containing 14,000 students, but due allowance must be made for Moslem mendacity. But it is literally filled with a mass of youth, many of them mere beginners, and in the large court they sit on the hard floor in groups, usually clustered with a teacher around a column reading the Koran and receiving instructions. The buzzing noise is nerve-racking. It is interspersed with hissings by the teacher to call attention. Back and forward they rock and seem to be repeating phrases of something. Filth and poverty abound. Ranged around the court are rooms, or stalls, where the students able to pay a pittance sleep, while those unable to pay sleep on the hard floor. Bazarrhs, barber shops, laundry, traders of various sorts, are mixed in with the "university" bunches. It is said that it does some good work, but to an American it is a ridiculous burlesque on education worthy of the genius of a Sancho Panza. We were informed that much immorality exists, and the brazen deportment of various mere children on the streets indicated as much. Mohammedanism contains no moral code and its followers seem to possess no moral conscience or sense of refinement or shame. There is but one prophecy of the final outcome of such a religion—if such it can be called—that outcome is self-destruction and inward disintegration. Its outstanding feature is an intolerant fanaticism as ignorant as it is fanatical. The world is far from conversion but Christianity with its beneficial by-products is steadily, though



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slowly, making its triumphant way over these frightful odds and obstacles and some day in God's own time it shall prevail universally.

“Hasten, Lord, the glorious time  
When beneath Messiah's sway  
Every nation, every clime,  
Shall the gospel call obey.”

## CHAPTER XVII.

Gizeh—Heliopolis—Cheops—The Sphinx.





## CHAPTER XVII.

### Gizeh—Heliopolis—Cheops—The Sphinx.

The Gizeh Museum, the mammoth repository of Egyptian antiquities, is situated just across the Nile on the road to the Pyramids. A beautiful garden with fountains, parks, and Egyptian statuary surrounds it. In front is a large sphinx, one of many seen here and elsewhere. Here has been collected all the finest specimens that have survived the hands of inappreciative vandalism or the purloining claws of covetousness. A large collection was removed from the Boulak museum. From Memphis, Thebes, Luxor, Karnak, Philae, Cairo, Alexandria, Heliopolis, most of the 86 pyramids; from all Egypt have they come, and now repose under massive walls and bayoneted guards, for free inspection, for discriminative study, and for permanent preservation. One can spend an indefinite time here wandering from room to room and the study would amply justify any time thus invested. But it is beyond the scope of this chapter or the ability of this scribe to attempt more than a passing mention of a few of the outstanding objects of interest visited. Here are the elegant sarcophagi of virtually all the ancient kings of the several ruling dynasties of the past. They are of vari-colored marble and exquisite hand decorations. The same can be said of the Sacred Bulls, once of prime importance in Egyptian worship. Here are beautiful pictorial and sculptured representations of ancient life and customs, often depicted in panoramic form. These throw a flood of light on the antique past and hieroglyphic experts have thus been able to rewrite the enigmatic story of these wondrous peoples. There is sculpture of all kinds that no hand of today can equal in conception or execution. For example, one can never forget "The Village Chief," standing with a lifelikeness seen nowhere in any of the world's collections. It is 4,000 years old and looks out at you with a human expression that makes one listen for what he is about to say. He seems "yearning to mix himself with life." It is of wood perfectly rounded and proportioned and is marvelously preserved. The eyeballs are of white quartz, the iris is of darker stone, the pupil is a silver nail, and the lids are thin folds of bronze. For 40 centuries it had remained in its hiding place and represented some eminent personage. It was found by the great Mariette, the world's most famous Egyptologist, whose fine monument is in the Gizeh garden.

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When he broke through the concealed door and entered the vault containing this statue bearing testimony to such a remote and undisturbed antiquity, he burst into tears. Even the footprints of the burial squad remained on the sand floor of the large vault. It was so lifelike and resembled so much the overseer of the village nearby that his assistants exclaimed, "The Village Chief," and this cognomen will ever cling to this famous statue. In the Mummy Room we met Rameses II, the Pharaoh of the Israelitish oppression. On one side was that of his father, Seti, the Pharaoh of Joseph's time. On the other side reposed that of Rameses' son, Meneptha, the Pharaoh of the Exodus. Rameses lived to be 87 years old and ruled Egypt 67 years. His fallen statue at Memphis weighs 900 tons and was transported 150 miles. One great secret of Egyptian embalming was the extreme dryness of the climate. In the markets beef hangs for weeks without spoiling.

Six miles northeast of Cairo near the El-Khalia Canal is Heliopolis, the famous city of On, the Oxford of Ancient Egypt. Potiphera its Priest was its Chancellor. Joseph married his daughter Asenath and thus formed a very diplomatic alignment. He doubtless studied there also. Moses graduated here and was much learned in the arts and wisdom of the Egyptians. Here studied Pythagorus, Euclid, Plato, Heroditus. It covered several acres and had 13,000 officials. Nothing now remains but the crumbled corner of one of the walls and the impressive obelisk with its base buried in the silted drift of centuries, but with its once gilded peak pointing to the same astrological sign as when with its mate it held intelligent converse with old Pythagorus, assisting him in that great geometric discovery, the secret of which so elated him that he sacrificed a hectacomb to the gods. These two tall obelisks were so placed and arranged in front of the Temple of the Sun that when the pointed shadows of both kissed each other in the front doorway it was high noon. These pyramidal points were tipped with pure gold and the chiseled hieroglyphic inscriptions were gold filled and doubtless presented a most beautiful aspect. It is six feet square and stands above ground 66½ feet. Its mate was destroyed 800 years ago. This one now remaining was hewn from the quarry and erected by Usertasen B. C. 1740, under whose reign Joseph came to Egypt, and it is therefore 3,662 years old. Down each of its four sides was a hieroglyphic hymn to the gods. These characters are almost filled up by beeswax and honeycomb.



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Near Heliopolis is a garden of beauty in which is "The Virgin's Tree." It is a very large sycamore with spreading limbs and hollow trunk. It is very old, perhaps 500 years. We are informed that the Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus took refuge in it and that God caused a spider to spin its web across the hole, by which web they were saved from their pursuers. In 1861 the Khedive, Ismail Pasha, offered this tree to the Princess Eugenia of France to take home as an Egyptian souvenir. She thanked him but requested instead the skeleton of the spider that spun this marvelous web. Pieces of this tree's bark are sold for relics having protective and curative powers. Nearby the tree is a very fine well. Water was lifted by the "sakieh" or large wheel turned round by oxen. They were blindfolded to prevent their attention being attracted and thus interfering with their steady tramping.

In this connection it should be mentioned that in Cairo we visited the Church of the Copts and were shown a cave deep under the floor where the Holy Family tarried in seclusion for quite a while.

The Pyramids. There are 86 of them, great and small. Perhaps others have been demolished. They were built as tombs of the kings. As soon as one ascended the throne he began the erection of his tomb, each seeking to excel the others. The Pyramid of Cheops, the biggest of them all, is typical. It is nearest Cairo. Cheops is a corruption of Chufu, the second monarch of the fourth dynasty. It is six miles southwest of the city. It was built in 3733 B. C. and is therefore nearly 6,000 years old, though it is not the oldest one, if the largest. Cephren is 500 years its senior.

"Old Time, himself so old, is like a child,  
And can't remember when these blocks were piled.  
Or caverns scooped; but, with amaz'd eye,  
He seemed to pause, like other standers-by,  
Half thinking how the wonders here made known  
Were born in ages older than his own."

These two with Mycerinus are the largest in a group of three threes, or a group of nine. They are all arranged in triangular formation and from their smooth surfaces scholars of that day could calculate with exactness the Procession of the Equinoxes and other astronomical data.

Cheops covers 13 acres and contains enough gigantic blocks to erect several American cities or to build a fence around several states. It con-



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tains 85,000,000 cubic feet of stone. Heroditus tells us that 100,000 men worked 10 years, changing every third year, to build the inclined causeway over which the stones were conveyed. This made 4,000,000 laborers, while another 7,000,000 built the Pyramid. It has been estimated that the leeks, radishes, and onions alone consumed by the laborers totaled \$2,000,000.

It is 482 feet high and at the base is 764 feet. A small rock hewn passage leads down a gradual slope into a small chamber in its heart. Here were the coffins of the King and his favorite queen. It is easy to believe that old Chufu was hated beyond all expression by the oppressed populace. The big stones composing it were handled by sheer man power and hewn far away and rolled or dragged over an inclined causeway for miles and miles by means of ropes, levers, etc. And this roadway was continually built up as needed. Cheops was originally plastered over smoothly outside but time has removed virtually all of it. With the help of guides one can ascend it and on a thirty-foot platform, made so by removal of the stones, one may stand and get a most marvelous view of the vast stretches surrounding, including the green Nile valley winding like some giant anaconda far to the heated south. An expert climber ascends and returns in eight minutes and wants you to compensate him for the feat even though you paid no attention to him. The guides are greedy and treacherously inclined and half way up on the climb threaten to leave you or to throw you off unless you pay them more bakshish. But they are lying. They pursue the same miserable tactics on guiding you into the dark interior. The Egyptian guides and camel drivers are utterly void of conscience. One loses all patience with them. It is easy to condone Moses' act of slaying his Egyptian. If he had only slain more of them. We rode camels from the end of the trolley line to the Pyramids. There seemed to be ten camels to each tourist and all drivers clamoring at once in broken English that his camel was the best of all. Each had famous names—Mark Twain, W. J. Bryan, Teddy Roosevelt, the Prince of Wales, etc. The writer's was named President Harding and proved to be a good camel. The sensation was pleasant and the fact of being able to ride the back of a President of the United States added some interest. In the preceding chapter we paid our respects to this great animal. He fills a large place in human economy. He gets down before and gets up behind and one must lean far back to keep from falling. The nearest we can express the camel-back





**The Sphinx and Cheops.**

"O, ageless, pulseless, flexless, tongueless Sphinx,  
Still crouching where the green Nile belt retards  
The encroaching billows of a noiseless sea."





## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

sensation is that one makes a figure 8. All sorts of coins and relics, each guaranteed to be genuine and antique, are shown you and the urgency and persistency of the salesmen is decidedly annoying. You may know that most of them are counterfeit. We never saw so many scarobs, or beetles. Literally bushels of them everywhere. The scarob was the emblem of immortality.

Near Cheops is the Sphinx, the most interesting of all Egyptian objects. It is all hewn of one stone and the top of its head is the level of the base of the Pyramid nearby. It has the body of a lion and the head of a man and represents strength and wisdom, strength topped and controlled by wisdom. Its head is 100 feet in circumference and it is 64 feet from the top of its head to its claws, or the lower part of its body. Its paws are 50 feet long and from tail to end of same is 90 feet. It was of reddish cyanite granite but is faded and is a light gray today. Its outstretched paws are hollow and through them lead passages to an ancient temple, the ruins of which have been unearthed. An altar to the Sun stood between its paws. It was a monument to King Chufu, who built the great Pyramid. Its beard was broken off and is now in the British Museum. Tradition says that it was shot away by the Mamaluke soldiers, who used the Sphinx as a target for cannon practice. Its expression is solemn, majestic, awe-inspiring, almost human. It is a masterpiece. It was 2,000 years old when Abraham was born and is good for thousands to come.

Much has been said about "The Riddle of the Sphinx." A great picture by Merson in the Louvre throws more light by suggestion on this "riddle" than anything we have seen. It is called "The Repose in Egypt." The upturned face of the Sphinx still asks the great questions of life. It stands appropriately on the edge of the desert to suggest the desert state of the world without God and immortality. Darkness broods over the scene. Only the far-off stars of tradition and philosophy shed their dim light upon life's dark and dismal desert. Between the arms of the Sphinx rest Mary and the Child Jesus in their flight from Herod's vengeance. The ass is tethered nearby in an oasis and Joseph half sleeps on the sand near the Mother and Child. The light of the picture streams forth from the face of the Babe, illumines the oasis and the adjacent sands, and stretches far away over the desolate waste and penetrates the darkness. So indeed did its ancient builder build far better than he knew. This creature of his insatiable spirit

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seeking to express itself in carved granite, perhaps like all ages and races of men, "feeling after God lest haply they might find Him," but pointed forth unconsciously and pathetically to the fulfillment of all hopes, the culmination of all dreams, the attainment of all quests, the gratifying of all aspirations, the answering of all riddles, the satisfying of all hungers,—the Christ of Bethlehem, the anointed of God, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World. Jesus in the lap of the Sphinx—the religion of the future resting upon and fulfilling the religion of the past—that is the great Sphinx lesson.

O, ageless, pulseless, flexless, tongueless Sphinx,  
Still crouching where the green Nile belt retards  
The encroaching billows of a noiseless sea,  
While far off gleam white sails of mystic ships  
On gliding to some far flung spectral shores.

The lengthy circling centuries sweeping by  
Have little marred thy mute majestic mien.  
Thy silent eyes look forth as in the dim  
Remote and obscure ages of the past,  
Scanning the thoughts and deeds of passing men.

They've seen dynastic powers rise and wane,  
Beheld them stalking forth upon the stage,  
Transact their minute parts and disappear  
Like vanished white clad ghosts, surviving but  
In chiseled hieroglyph or polished shaft.

Thy face sustains its prime expressive pose  
As when from parent rock thou stoodest forth  
Sublime in all thine ancient royal poise.  
Thy riddle yet remains, up-sealed, unsolved;  
Time's crystal calyx holds thy secret still.  
Beneath the billowy sands that lave thy feet  
Embosomed hides the key. The clew is gone.

From every nation, clime, a pilgrim stream  
Before thee stand upgazing to thy face  
Pleading that thou shouldst break thy silent spell.  
They pass and leave thee in disdainful calm.

The golden stars look down, the moon gleams on  
Over the waves of voiceless desert sand,  
Her kiss awakes thee not from thy long dream.  
Above thee Cheops stands, proud, pensive Sheik,  
Majestic o'er his pyramidal tribe,  
Thine unbreathed secret guarding through the years,  
His lordly brow uptowering to the sky,  
As round thy head the wheeling cycles fly.  
So wilt thou stand when unborn ages still  
Shall chant their legends to the sons of men.



## A PALESTINE PILGRIMAGE

### L'ENVOY.

Our Pilgrimage is ended. For seventeen stages we have journeyed together in pleasant and in foul weather. If our fellow pilgrims have enjoyed this fellowship half as much as we, and if these descriptions have been helpful, we are amply repaid. We are now at Alexandria. The beautiful Cleopatra is lying alongside the wharf ready to steam out over the Mediterranean for the second half of our delightful tour. We shall soon visit Naples, Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice, Lucerne, Paris, Brussels, the Flanders Fields, Bruges, London, Stratford-on-Avon, and many minor points. We should love to dwell at length on these, but time and space and the title of this volume limit us to Palestine. We are turning again home, back to God's great America, back to the true Holy Land, the best land the sun ever shone upon. One of the chief assets of this pilgrimage is an enhanced love and appreciation of our own favored homeland. She stands in the world's forefront. The word "Americana" was the Open Sesame to all doors. We have the world's good will and to us look the eyes of the world for help and for guidance out of this present tangled wilderness. We cannot evade our responsibility under the excuse of a narrow construction of the Monroe Doctrine, nor will we in the end. Ours is a ponderous responsibility. May the same Divine Hand that has led us thus far still lead us on

"O'er moor and fen,  
O'er crag and torrent till the night is gone."

Dr. Henry van Dyke has expressed our feelings as we turn our noses westward:

'Tis fine to see the Old World and travel up and down  
Among the famous places and cities of renown,  
To admire the crumbly castles and the statues of the kings,  
But now I think I've had enough of antiquated things.

O, London is a man's town, there's power in the air;;  
And Paris is a woman's town, with flowers in her hair;  
And it's sweet to dream in Venice and it's great to study Rome,  
But when it comes to living, there is no place like home.

\* \* \* \* \*

I know that Europe's wonderful, yet something seems to lack,  
The past is too much with her, and her people looking back;  
But the glory of the Present is to make the Future free—  
We love our land for what she is and what she is to be.

So it's home again, and home again, America for me!  
My heart is turning home again, and there I long to be;  
In the land of youth and freedom beyond the ocean bars,  
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

FINIS.















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